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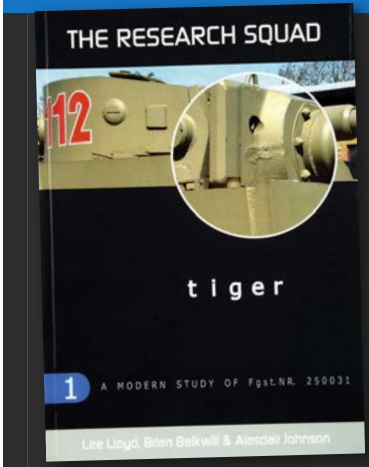
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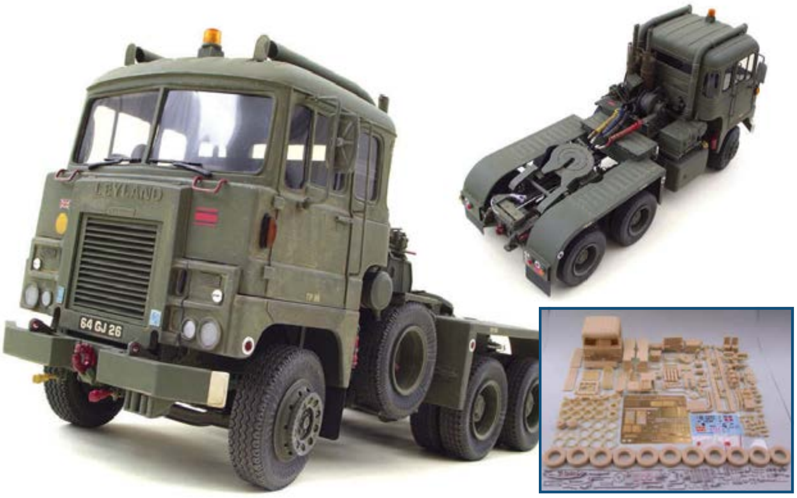


KIT FORM 1:24 SERVICES TRACTOR UNIT CL. 35 TONNE 6x4 LEYLAND/SCAMMEL CRUSADER

Briefly, the 11.5" long model comprises all new components from the ground up & includes traditional multi part chassis rails & cross members, an all new Rolls Royce Eagle Diesel engine with Eaton/Fuller gearbox & PTO. Complete Plumett winch, Scammell 6x4 rear bogies, double oscillating fifth wheel, highly detailed cab. Separate wheels & tyres for ease of painting, Goodyear road pattern tyres. Acetate glazing with cutting patterns, pre-coloured clear cast side lights, tail lights, indicators & beacon. Decals include VRN plates, engine decals, data plates & Royal Engineer flashes. Superb etched brass parts including Leyland & Scammell grill badging, exhaust heat shields & engine manufacturer badging. Full pictorial instructions to the usual high standard included.
The kit contains 135 parts in resin, 92 parts in cast white metal, 136 parts in etched brass.
The price is £230.00 UK including vat (£191.66 for export outside EU) and the kit should be available by the time you read this.
Thanks to Kit Form Services for the information and images
www.kitformservices.com

SOUTHERN EXPO 2017

Southern Expo 2017 will be held on Saturday 18th & Sunday 19th March at Hornchurch Sports Centre, Harrow Lodge Park, Hornchurch Road, Hornchurch, Essex, RM11 1JU
10am to 5pm Saturday & 10am to 4pm Sunday
Entry: Adults £3.00, Children £1 & Senior Citizens £2
Open Competition (Sunday only) – the Senior competition is being sponsored by Models For Sale (***http://www.modelsforsale.com***)
For further details visit the website at ***http://myweb.tiscali.co.uk/southernexpo/*** or email ***SouthernExpo@tiscali.co.uk***

MAFVA NATIONALS 2017

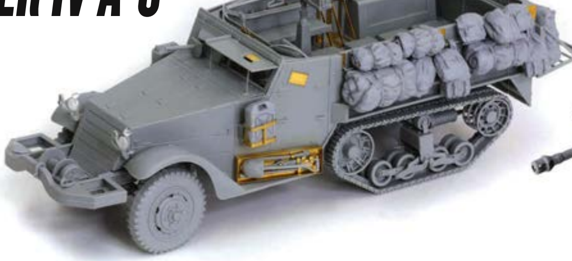
We have received advance information that the MAFVA Nationals has been booked already:

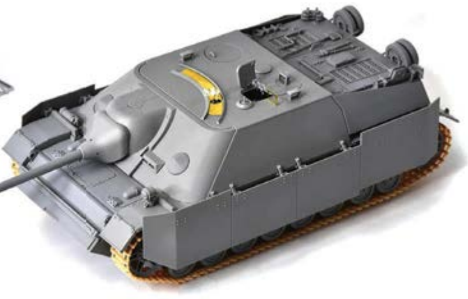
MAFVA Nationals 2017,

- Sunday 18th June 2017,
- The Burgess Hall, Westwood Rd, Saint Ives, Cambridgeshire, PE27 6WU.

Further information will be posted on ***www.mafva.net/nationals*** or contact Paul Middleton on ***liaison@mafva.net***

DRAGON 1:35 JAGDPANZER IV A-0





Germany based its Jagdpanzer IV tank destroyer on the chassis of the ubiquitous and reliable Panzer IV tank. The vehicle mounted a lethal 75mm main gun in a fixed superstructure or casemate. The low-profile vehicle was actually designed as a replacement for the successful StuG.III, and it was built in three variants, the first of which was the 0-series, essentially a Jagdpanzer IV pre-production version. The 0-series is easily identified by the rounded front corners of the superstructure, a feature that was dropped for production and ballistic reasons once manufacture began. It mounted a 7.5cm PaK39 gun, plus ports for two 7.92mm machine guns in the glacis plate. The first 0-series vehicle was produced in January 1944.

This Dragon 1:35 scale rendition of a Jagdpanzer IV A-0 recreates the original pre-production vehicle. Indeed, it has no connection with old item No.9059 that Dragon released years ago. This is a brand new kit that employs parts such as the chassis and road wheels from Dragon's current generation of exemplary Panzer IV kits, combined with easy-to-assemble tracks made from DS. Furthermore, the superstructure and roof are brand new. It has the correct superstructure with distinctive rounded corners that makes it stand out from production Jagdpanzer IVs, while the 75mm PaK39 gun is fitted with a muzzle brake. In fact, Dragon has made the 1/35 kit even more attractive by offering two different options in the box. These options allow either of two different vehicle configurations to be created as modelers wish.

The decisive Six-Day War fought between Israel and its neighbors will achieve its 50th anniversary next year. Between now and then, Dragon is releasing a series of 1/35 scale kits highlighting equipment that was critical to that famous Middle East conflict.

American production of the M3 ran into the thousands, and after WWII many nations sold off their stocks to countries like Israel. The M3 in IDF service was an important vehicle for mechanized infantry, it being a forerunner to proper armored personnel carriers like the M113 that Israel later fielded in large numbers.

This 1:35 scale kit has been suitably modified to represent an Israeli M3 in the period of the Six-Day War. For example, there is a new machine gun mount above the front windscreen armor. A typical characteristic of Israeli halftracks was the mass of backpacks and kit stowed on and dangling off the sides of vehicles. This flurry of equipment is perfectly captured with a range of kit accessories made from DS, the ideal material to make such items from. This is a highly detailed and realistic model of an M3 halftrack fighting during the bitterly contested Six-Day War. Indeed, because such halftracks were used long before and after the 1967 conflict, this kit offers enormous modeling versatility too.

We will have a full review of these interesting subjects upon release.

Thanks to The Hobby Company Limited for the information and images ***www.hobbyco.net***

COMPETITION

We have teamed up with our friends at The Airbrush Company to offer one lucky reader the chance of winning the new Sparmax ARISM Viz compressor!

Worth £180.00 RRP!

SPARMAX
ARISM
VIZ

Intuitive Design - Universal DC Motor - Quiet Operation

The ARISM Viz incorporates two new innovative designs from Sparmax, the Smart-Stop (see info below), and the Silver Bullet Plus. When used in conjunction with each other the result is a compact, ergonomic, and intuitive compressor for airbrushing.

The name VIZ was chosen from the similar-sounding 'Vis', which has many meanings in Latin, including 'Nature', 'Efficiency', and 'Strength'. It is also encompassed in the word 'visual', which we felt was fitting, since when it came to airbrushing the artist was bringing their vision to life on canvas for all to see.

ARISM Viz has a DC motor for universal usage (100-240V) and coupled with its small size it is ideal for travel. Additionally, it is designed to draw less power than comparable AC compressors and is also quieter.

As an optional accessory, the ARISM Viz can also be run with standard Sparmax Battery Packs. A combined set including the Compressor, Battery and Charger is also available.

An innovative and intuitive feature designed to enhance the users airbrushing experience, the Smart-Stop pauses the compressor when the airbrush is placed into its holder and restarts it when it is taken off again. The first of its kind in the market, it is compatible with pressure regulators and bleed valves. Using the Smart-Stop, the working pressure before the compressor is paused will be maintained upon restart; this is comparable to the pressure stabilising effect of an air tank, minus the space taken up! Additionally, the Smart-Stop eliminates the frequent on/off condition which can occur when using a traditional auto stop + pressure regulator set up without an air tank.

Users with a single action or dual action airbrush will also have the same experience when using the Smart-Stop.

FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN THIS FANTASTIC COMPRESSOR, ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS ANSWER THIS QUESTION

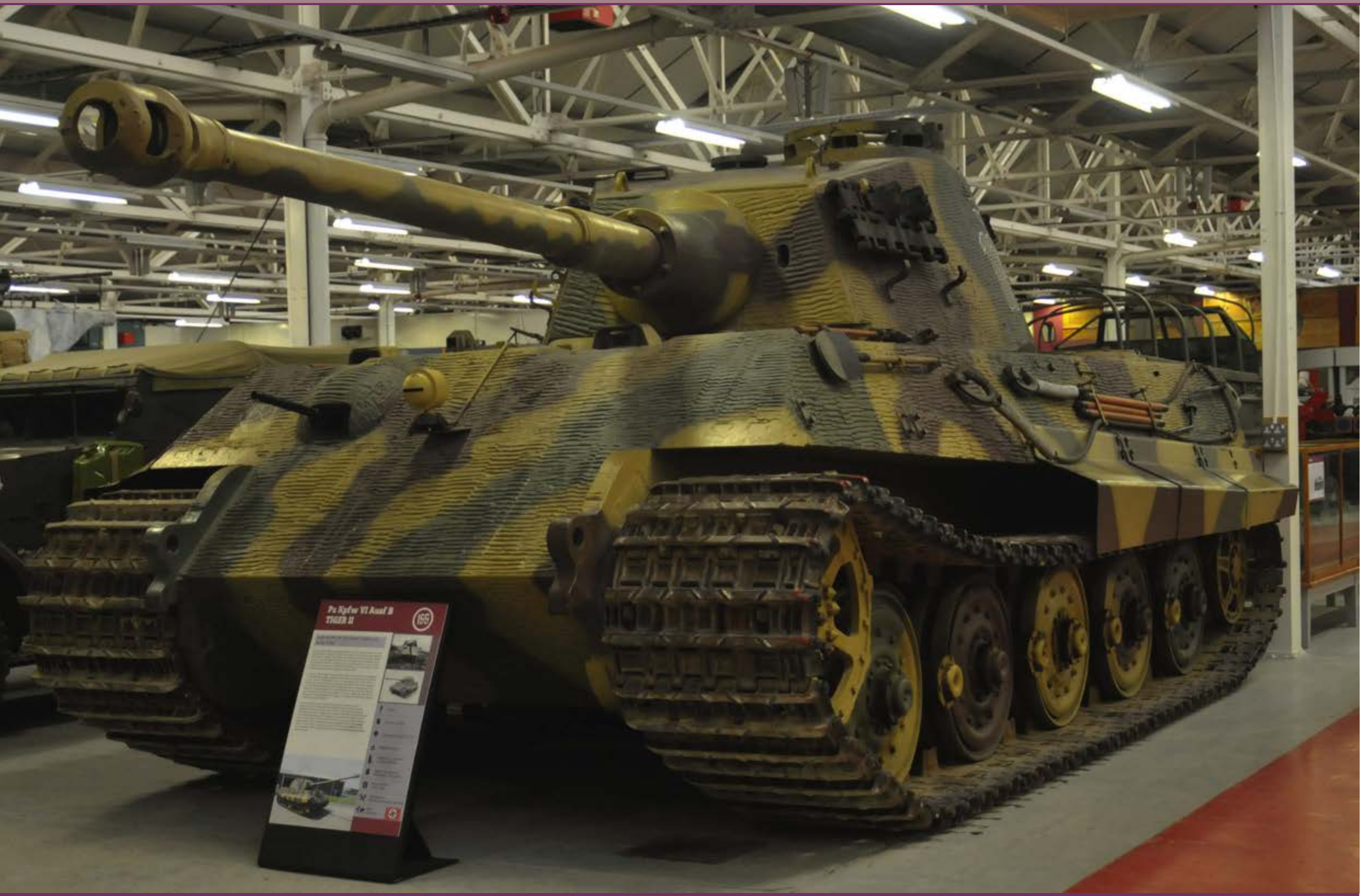
How many models of Sparmax airbrushes are available from www.Airbrushes.com?

Send your answers to Doolittle Media Ltd. on a postcard/sealed down envelope to:

MMI/Airbrush Company Competition
Doolittle Media Ltd., Doolittle Mill, Doolittle Lane,
Totternhoe, Beds., LU6 1QX

Closing date: 31st January 2017

Doolittle Media Competition Rules
Employees of Doolittle Media, The Airbrush Company and associated companies and their relatives are not eligible to enter. Competition is open to UK residents only. The judge's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into. Only one entry per household. The winner will be contacted directly. There is no cash alternative. All entries must be received by 31st January 2017



TIGER II CLOSE UP

MMI takes a walk around Bovington's Tiger II, and discusses the development and specification of this iconic German heavy tank.

The Tiger II was the successor to the Tiger I, combining the latter's thick armour with the armour sloping used on the Panther medium tank. The tank weighed almost 70 tonnes, and was protected by 100 to 185 mm (3.9 to 7.3 in) of armour to the front. It was armed with the long barrelled 8.8 cm KwK 43 L/71 anti-tank cannon. The chassis was also the basis for the Jagdtiger turretless tank destroyer.

The Tiger II was issued to heavy tank battalions of the Army and the Waffen-SS. It was first used in combat with 503rd Heavy Panzer Battalion during the Allied Invasion of Normandy on 11 July 1944 on the Eastern Front. The first unit to be outfitted with Tiger IIs was the 501st Heavy Panzer Battalion, which by 1 September 1944 listed 25 Tiger IIs operational

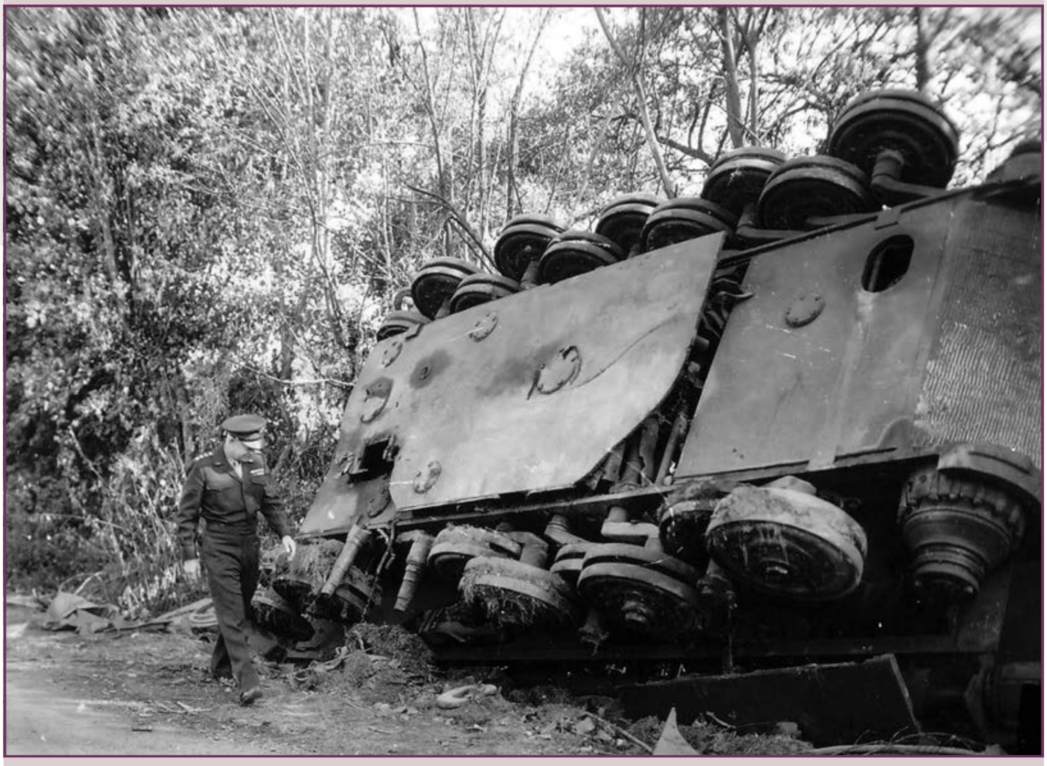
DEVELOPMENT

Development of a heavy tank design had been initiated in 1937; the initial design contract was awarded to Henschel. Another design contract followed in 1939, and was given to Porsche. Both prototype series used the same turret design from Krupp; the main differences were in the hull, transmission, suspension and automotive features.

The Henschel version used a conventional hull design with sloped armour resembling the layout of the Panther tank. It had a rear mounted engine and used nine steel-tyred, eighty centimetre diameter overlapping road wheels per side with internal springing, mounted on transverse torsion bars, in a similar manner to the original Henschel-designed Tiger I. To simplify maintenance, however, as when the same steel-tired road wheels were used on later Tiger I hulls, the wheels were only overlapping without being interleaved – the full Schachtellaufwerk rubber-rimmed road wheel system that had been in use on nearly all German half-tracks used the interleaved design, later inherited by the early production versions of the Tiger I and Panther.

The Porsche hull designs included a rear-mounted turret and a mid-mounted engine. The suspension was the same as on the Elefant tank destroyer. This had six road wheels per side mounted in paired bogies sprung with short longitudinal torsion bars that were integral to the wheel pair; this saved internal space and facilitated repairs. One Porsche version had a petrol-electric drive (fundamentally identical to a Diesel-electric transmission, only using a petrol-fuelled engine as the prime mover), similar to a gasoline-electric hybrid but without a storage battery; two separate drive trains in parallel, one per side of the tank, each consisting of a hybrid drive train; gasoline engine - electric generator - electric motor - drive sprocket. This method of propulsion had been attempted before on the Tiger (P) (later Elefant prototypes) and in some US designs, but had never been put into production. The Porsche suspension were later used on a few of the later Jagdtiger tank destroyers. Another

A Tiger II destroyed in Normandy, 1944.



SHAEF commander Gen. Eisenhower walks by an overturned Tiger II. Note the overlapping, non-interleaved steel-rim road wheel arrangement.

proposal was to use hydraulic drives. Dr. Porsche's unorthodox designs gathered little favour.

DESIGN

Henschel won the design contract, and all Tiger IIs were produced by the firm. Two turret designs were used in production vehicles. The initial design is often misleadingly called the "Porsche" turret due to the belief that it was designed by Porsche for their prototype. In fact it was the initial Krupp design for both prototypes. This turret had a rounded front and steeply sloped sides, with a difficult-to-manufacture curved bulge on the turret's left side to accommodate the commander's cupola. Fifty early turrets were mounted to Henschel's hull and used in action. The more common "production" turret, sometimes called the "Henschel" turret, was simplified with a significantly thicker flat face, no shot trap (created by the curved face of the earlier turret), and less-steeply sloped sides, which prevented the need for a bulge for the commander's cupola, and added additional room for ammunition storage.

The turrets were designed to mount the 8.8 cm KwK 43 L/71 gun. Combined with the Turmzielfernrohr 9d (German "turret telescopic sight") monocular sight by Leitz, which all but a few early Tiger IIs used, it was a very accurate and deadly weapon. During practice, the estimated probability of a first round hit on a 2 m (6 ft 7 in) high, 2.5 m (8 ft 2 in) wide target only dropped below 100 percent at ranges beyond 1,000 m (0.62 mi), to 95–97 percent at 1,500 metres (0.93 mi) and 85–87 percent at 2,000 m (1.2 mi), depending on ammunition type. Recorded combat performance was lower, but still over 80 percent at 1,000 m, in the 60s at 1,500 m and the 40s at 2,000 m. Penetration of armoured plate inclined at 30 degrees was 202 and 132 mm (8.0 and 5.2 in) at 100 m (110 yd) and 2,000 m (1.2 mi) respectively for the Panzergranate 39/43 projectile (PzGr—armour-piercing shell), and 238 and 153 mm (9.4 and 6.0 in) for the PzGr. 40/43 projectile between the same ranges. The Sprenggranate 43 (SpGr) high-explosive round was available for soft targets, or the Hohlgranate or Hohlgeschoss 39 (HlGr—HEAT or High-explosive anti-tank warhead) round, which had 90 mm (3.5 in) penetration at any range, could be used as a dual-purpose munition against soft or armoured targets.

Powered turret traverse was

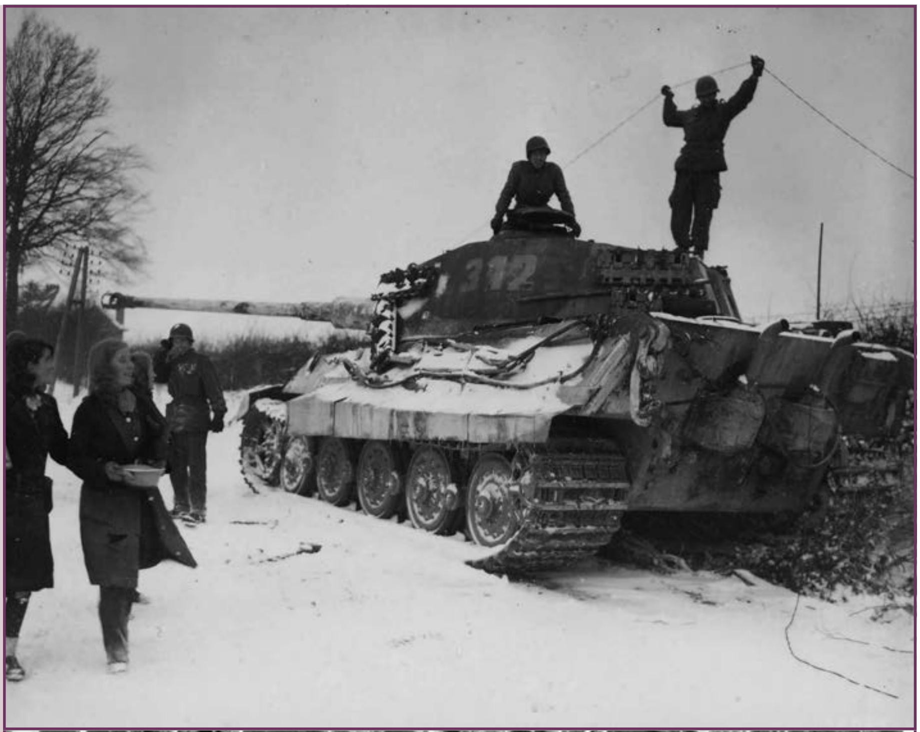
provided by the variable speed Boehringer-Sturm L4S hydraulic motor, which was driven from the main engine by a secondary drive shaft. A high and a low speed setting was available to the gunner via a lever on his right. The turret could be rotated 360 degrees in 60 seconds in low gear independent of engine rpm, in 19 seconds with the high speed setting and engine at 2000 rpm, and within 10 seconds at the maximum allowable engine speed of 3000 rpm. The direction and speed of traverse were controlled by the gunner through foot pedals, or a control lever near his left arm. If power was lost, such as when the tank ran out of fuel, the turret could be slowly traversed by hand, assisted by the loader who had an additional wheel. Two full turns of the wheel were necessary for a one degree turn of the turret, with a total of 720 turns for a full circle.

Like all German tanks, it had a petrol engine; in this case the same 700 PS (690 hp, 515 kW) V-12 Maybach HL 230 P30 which powered the much lighter Panther and Tiger I tanks. The Tiger II was under-powered, like many other heavy tanks of World War II, and consumed a lot of fuel, which was in short supply for the Germans. The transmission was the Maybach OLVAR EG 40 12 16 Model B, giving eight forward gears and four reverse, which drove the steering gear. This was the Henschel L 801, a double radius design which proved susceptible to failure. Transverse torsion bar suspension supported the hull on nine axles per side. Overlapped 800 mm (31 in) diameter road wheels with rubber cushions and steel tyres rode inside the tracks.

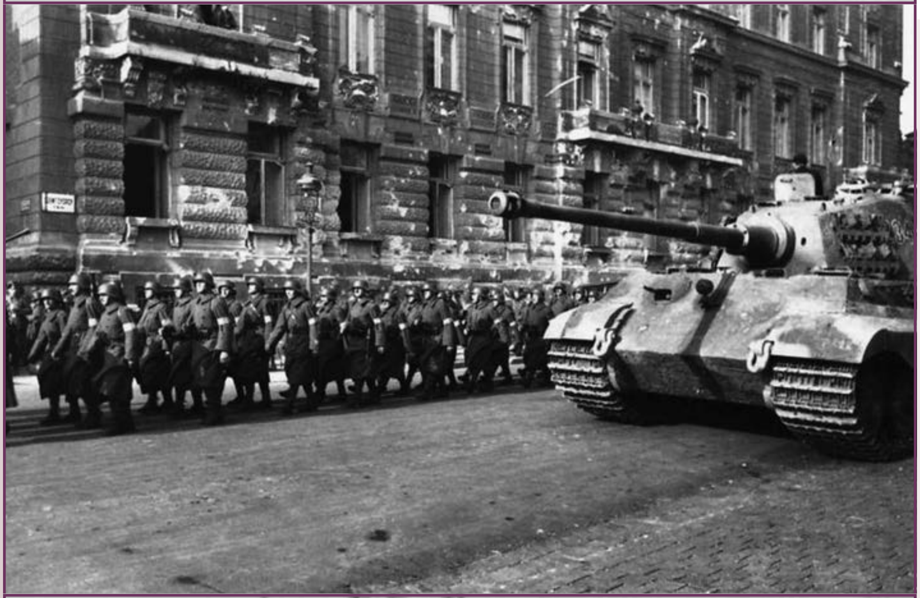
Like the Tiger I, each tank was issued with two sets of tracks: a normal "battle track" and a narrower "transport" version used during rail movement. The transport tracks reduced the overall width of the load and could be used to drive the tank short distances on firm ground. The crew were expected to change to normal battle tracks as soon as the tank was unloaded. Ground pressure was 0.76 kg/cm2 (10.8 psi).

COMMAND VARIANT

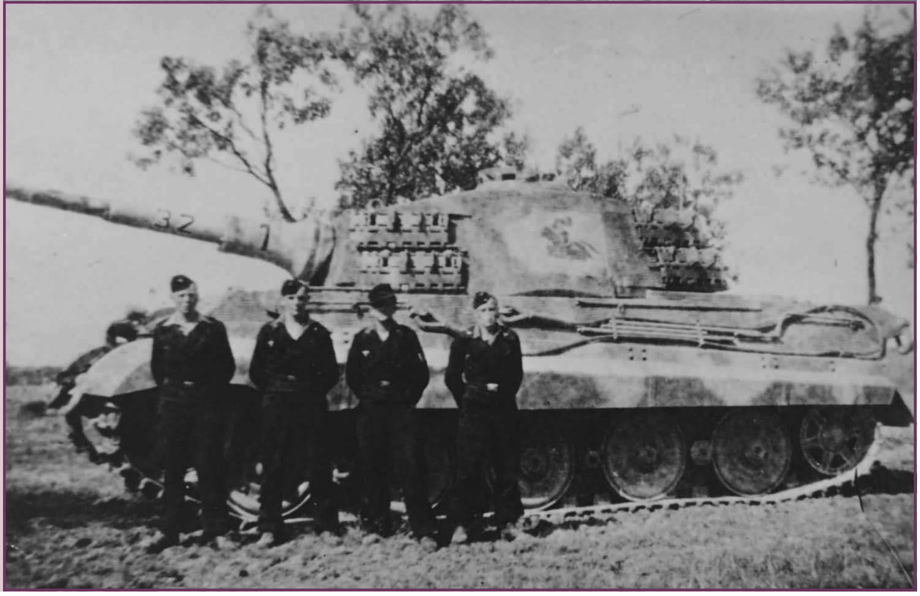
The command variant of the Tiger II was designated Panzerbefehlswagen Tiger Ausf. B. It had two versions, Sd.Kfz. 267 and Sd.Kfz. 268. These carried only 63 rounds of 8.8 cm ammunition to provide room to accommodate the extra radios and equipment, and had additional armour on the engine compartment. The Sd.Kfz. 267 was to have used FuG 8 and



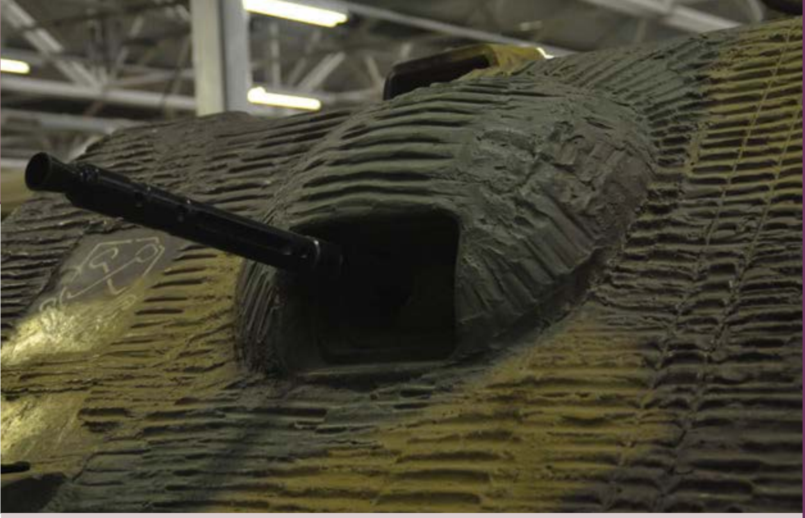
82nd Airborne Division troops examine an abandoned Tiger II, No. 312 3rd company 501 SS schwere Panzer Abteilung and 82nd Airborne Division troops at Corenne in Belgium in late 1944.



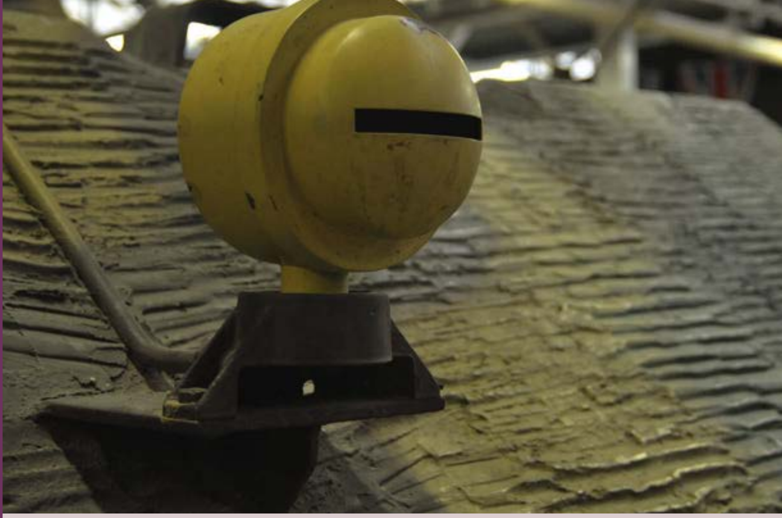
Tiger II of schwere Panzer Abteilung 505, tank number 132.



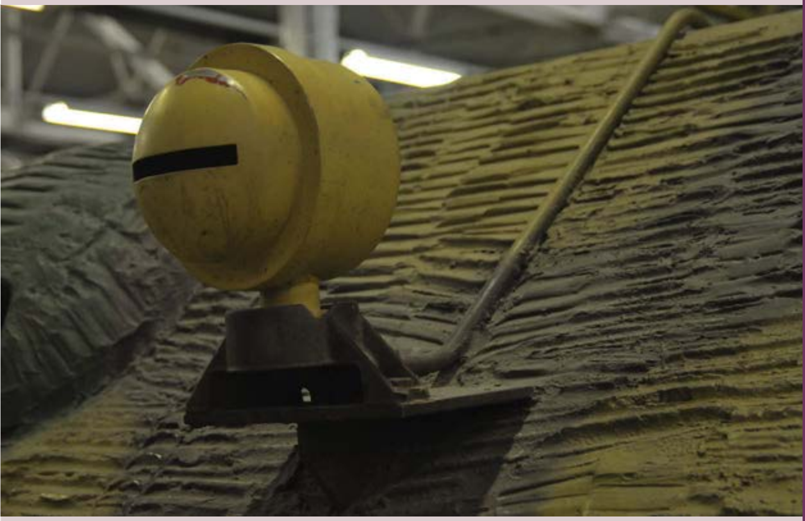
Tiger II no. 234 of schwere Panzer Abteilung 503 in Budapest during 1944.



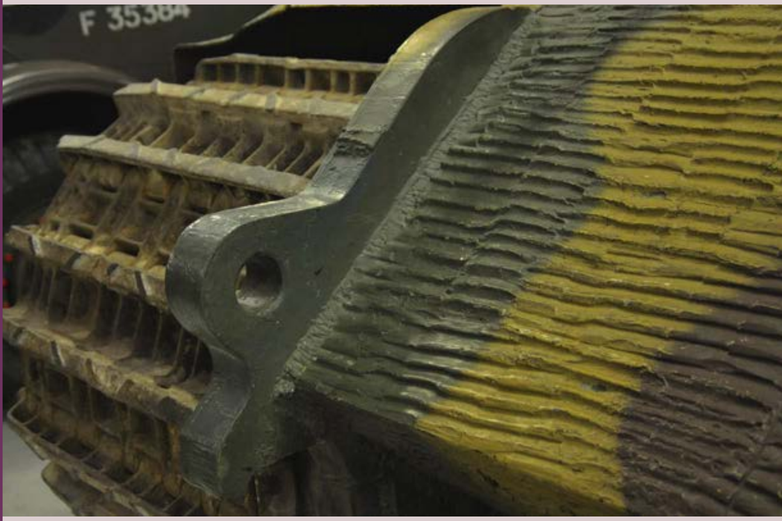
A close-up view of the hull-mounted machine gun.



A view of the headlight.



The centre-mounted headlight from the other side.



Towing eyes on the front of the hull side.

FuG 5 radio sets, with the most notable external changes being a two metre long rod antenna mounted on the turret roof and a Sternantenne D ("Star antenna D"), mounted on an insulated base (the 105mm Antennenfuβ Nr. 1), which was protected by a large armoured cylinder. This equipment was located on the rear decking in a position originally used for deep-wading equipment. The Sd.Kfz. 268 used FuG 7 and FuG 5 radios with a two-metre rod antenna mounted on the turret roof and a 1.4 metre rod antenna mounted on the rear deck.

PRODUCTION

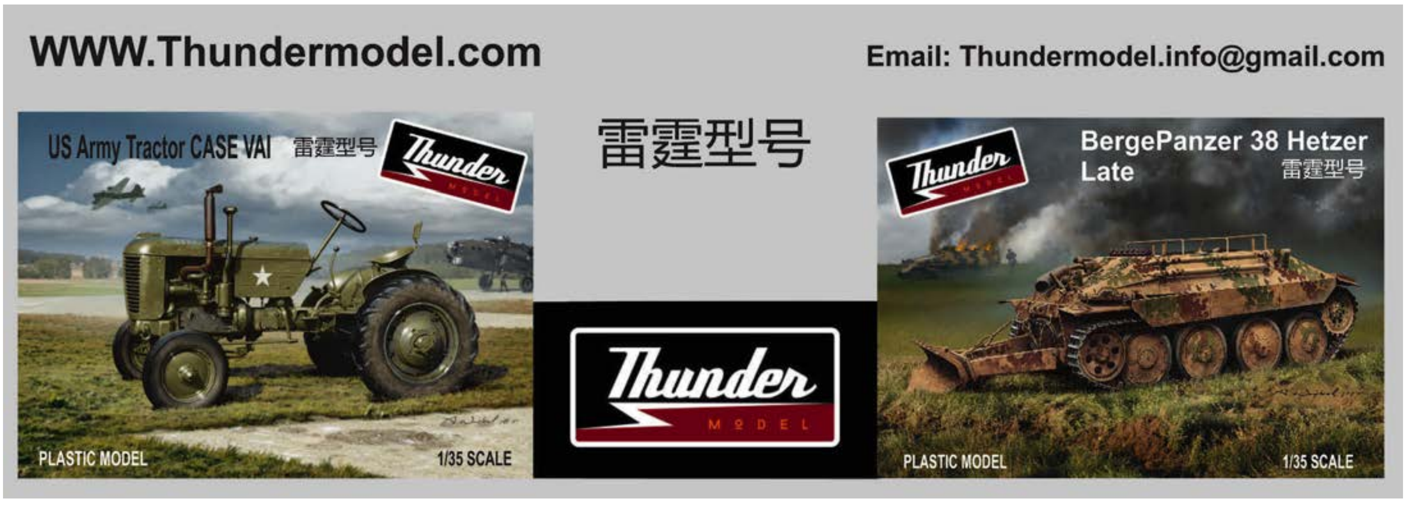
The Tiger II was developed late in the war and built in relatively small numbers. Orders were placed for 1,500 Tiger IIs – slightly more than the 1,347 Tiger I tanks produced – but Tiger II production was severely disrupted by Allied bombing. Among others, five raids between 22 September and 7 October 1944 destroyed 95 percent of the floor area of the Henschel plant. It is estimated that this caused the loss in production of some 657 Tiger IIs. Only 492 units were produced: one in 1943, 379 in 1944, and 112 in 1945. Full production ran from mid-1944 to the end of the war.

The Tiger II served as the basis for one production variant, the Jagdtiger casemated tank destroyer, and a proposed Grille 17/21/30/42 self-propelled mount for heavy guns that never reached production.

PROPOSED UPGRADES

The HL234, an engine born from the developments initiated by attempting to convert the Maybach HL230 to fuel injection, would have increased the power to about 800 to 900 PS (hp). The Entwicklungskommission Panzer unanimously decided that HL234 be immediately included in the engine design and procurement program. The AK-7-200 was also explored as an alternative to the Olvar-B drive train, but Waffenamt research and development department Wa Prüf 6 found that it offered inferior driving characteristics and so the Olvar-B was retained. Krupp proposed mounting a new main weapon, the 10.5 cm KwK L/68. Wa Prüf 6 was not supportive of this as the Heer had not accepted the cannon itself. Other suggested improvements included stabilised sights, a stabilised main gun, an automatic ammunition feed, a Zeiss stereoscopic range finder, heated crew compartment, stowage for an additional 12 rounds, and an overpressure and air filtration system to protect against poison gas, but these also never got beyond the proposal stage or did not enter production before the war ended. ■

Historical text courtesy of Wikipedia https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tiger_II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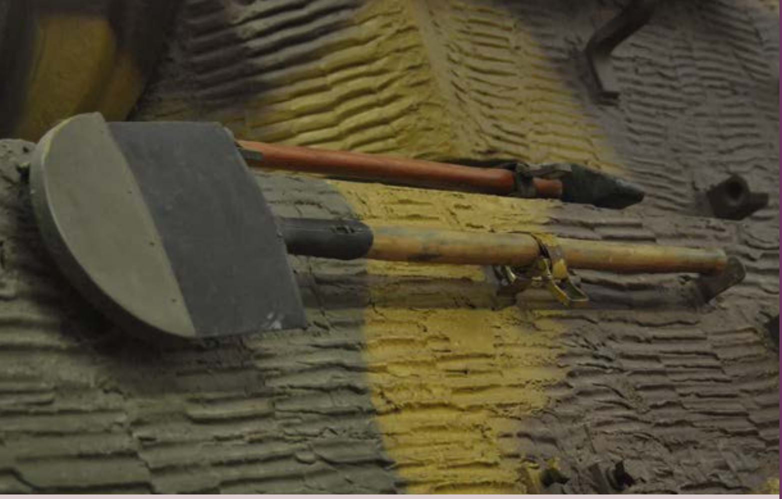
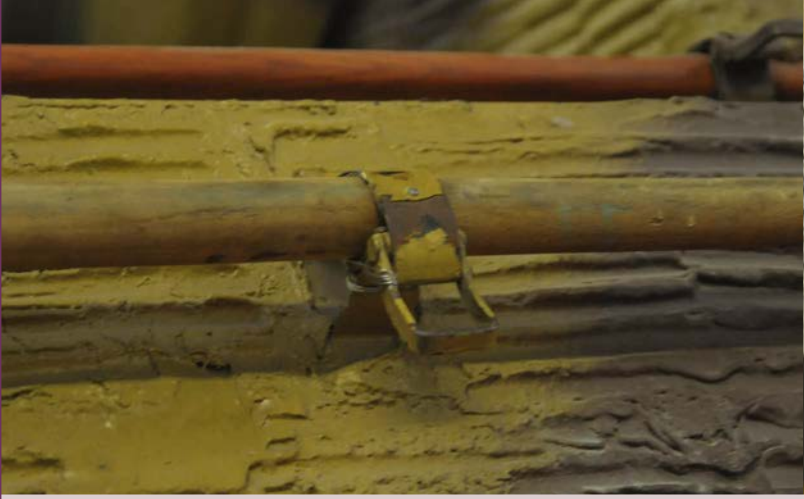
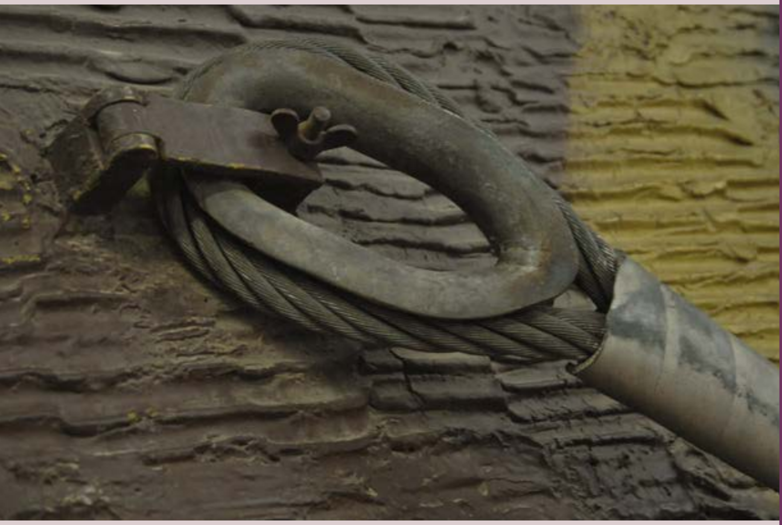
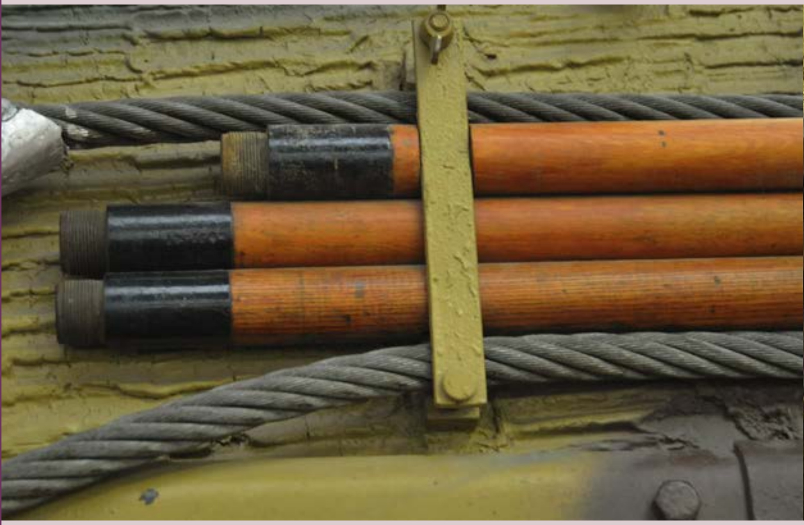
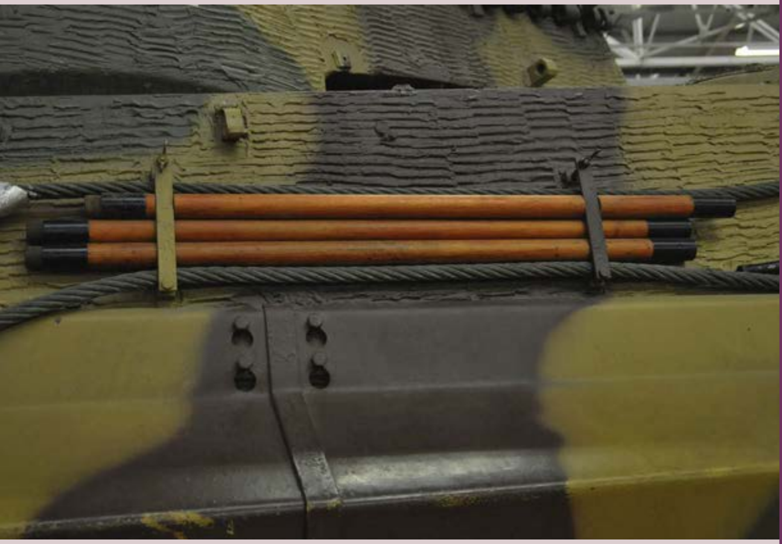
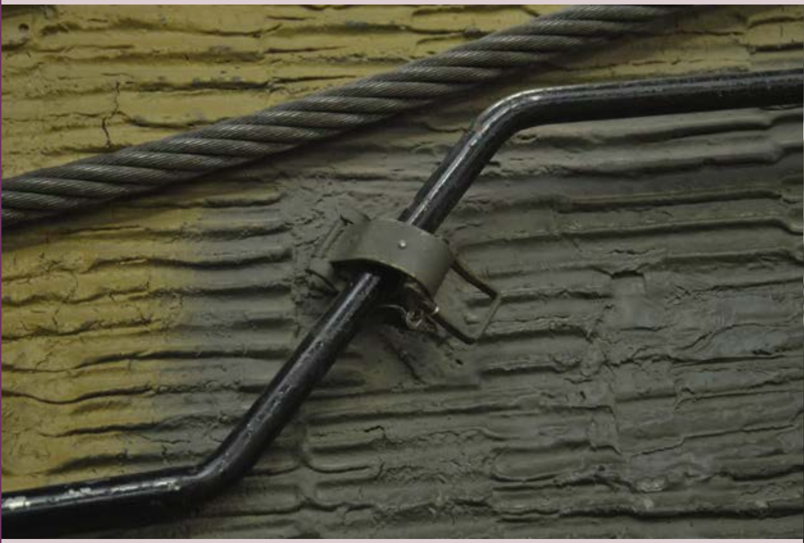

Pioneer tools on the forward hull side.

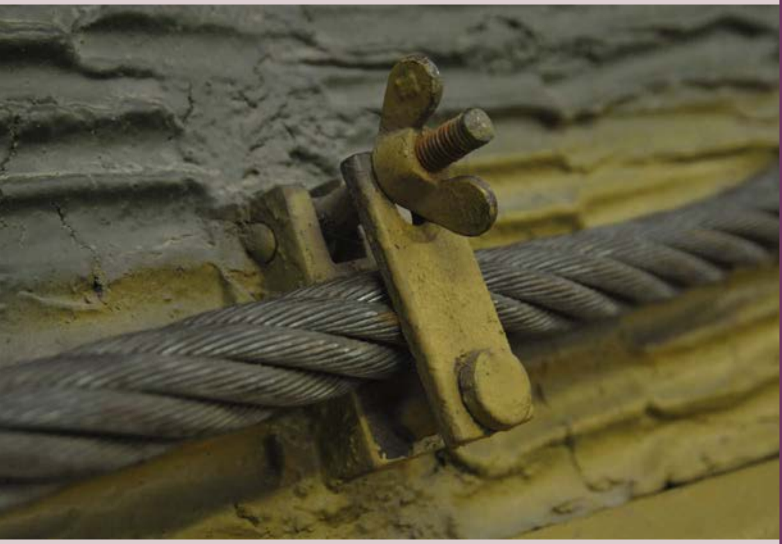

Close-up detail of a tool clasp.

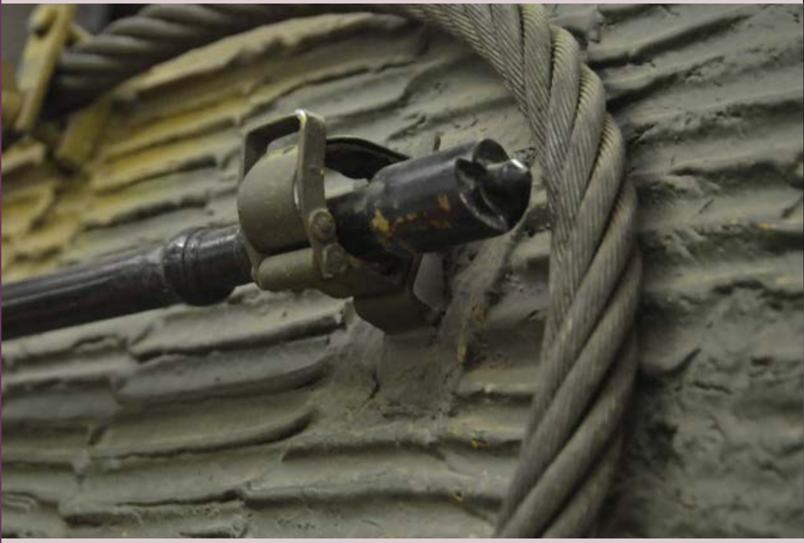

Forward attachment for the tow cable.

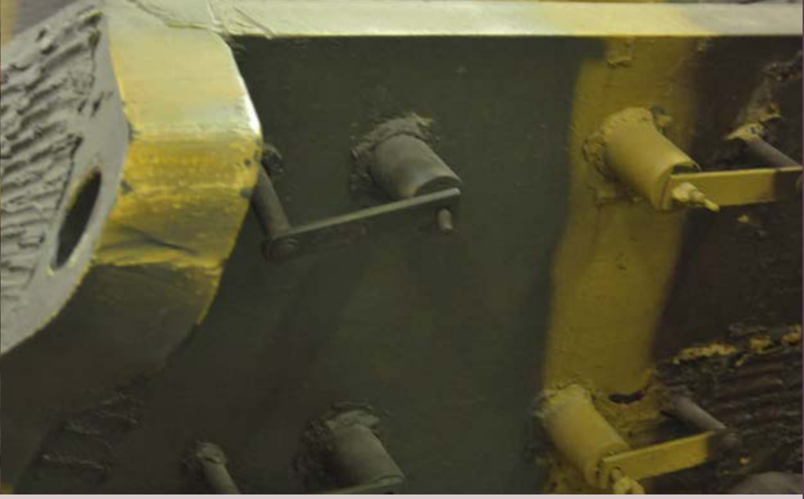

Threaded ends of the gun cleaning tubes.


The tubes are screwed together to achieve the long reach required for cleaning the barrel.

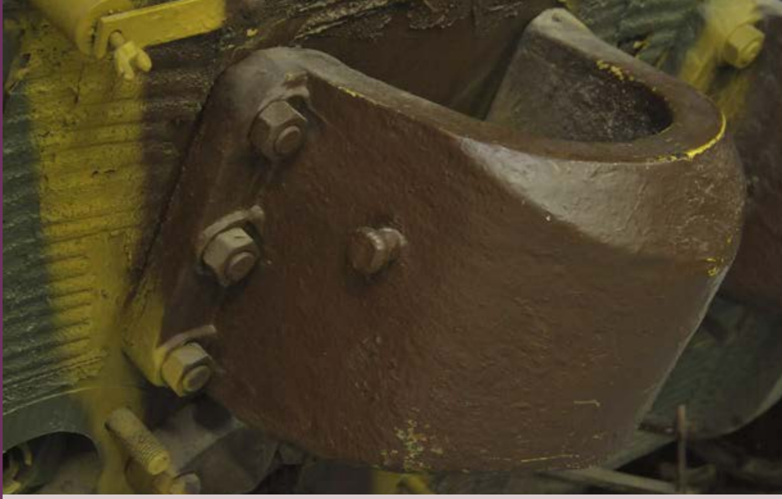

Clasp detail.


The heavy tow cable run is guided by a number of these clamps.

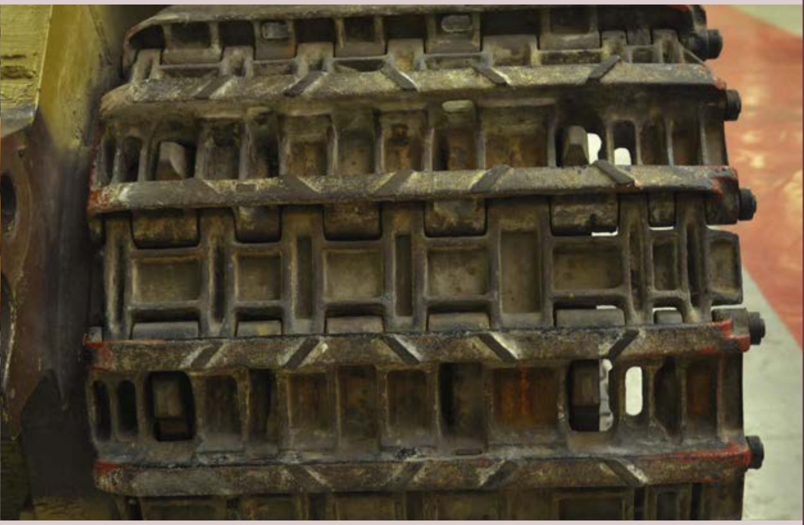

Starter dog.



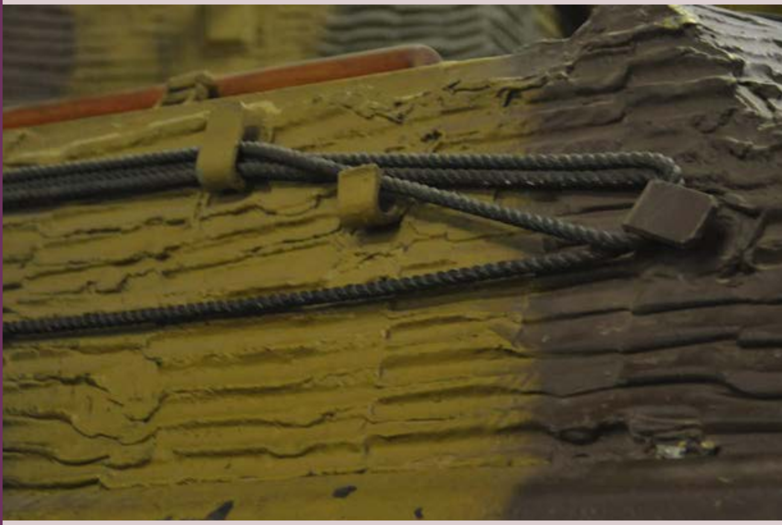
Empty mounts for towing hooks.



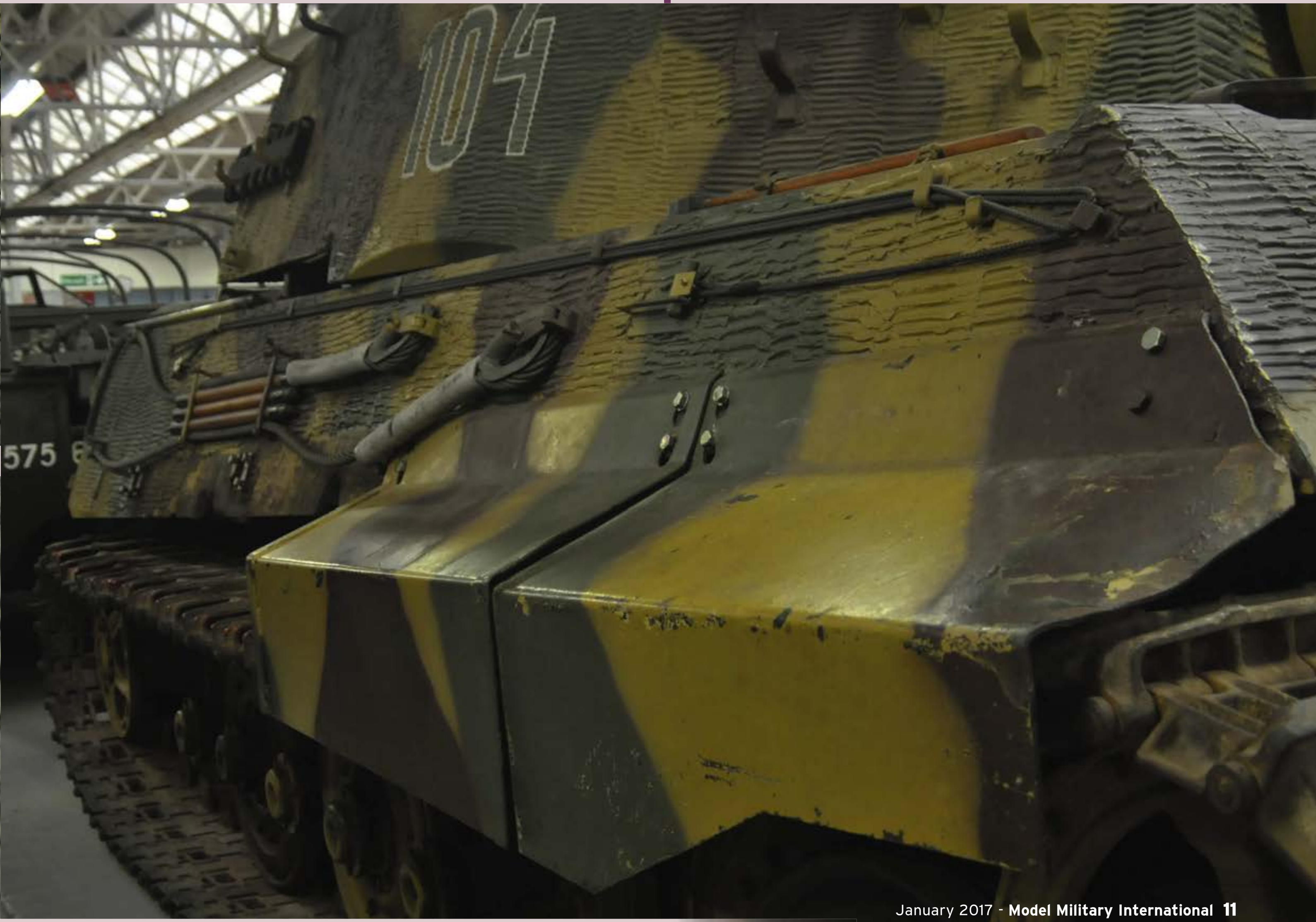
The heavy armoured pots protect the exhausts.



The two-piece wide battle tracks.

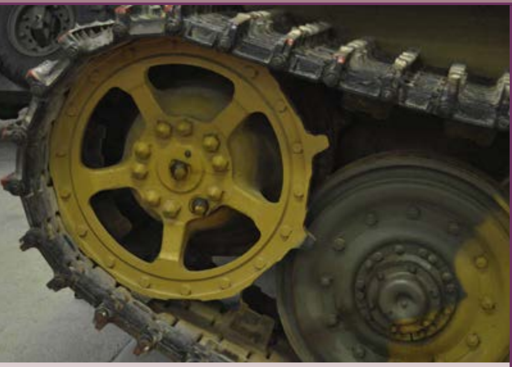


Track cables on the hull side.

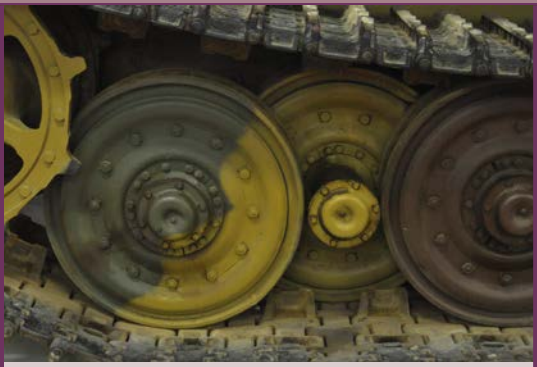


A full-length view of the starboard hull side.

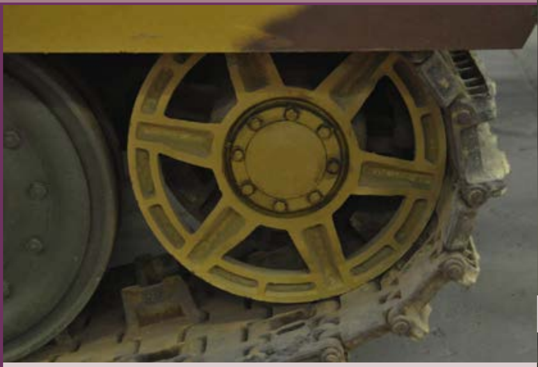
Think Tank - TIGER II CLOSE UP



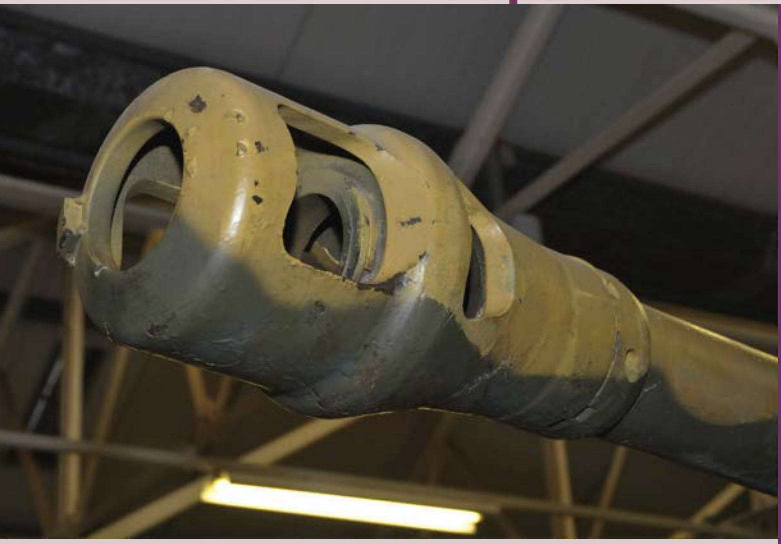
The drive sprocket.



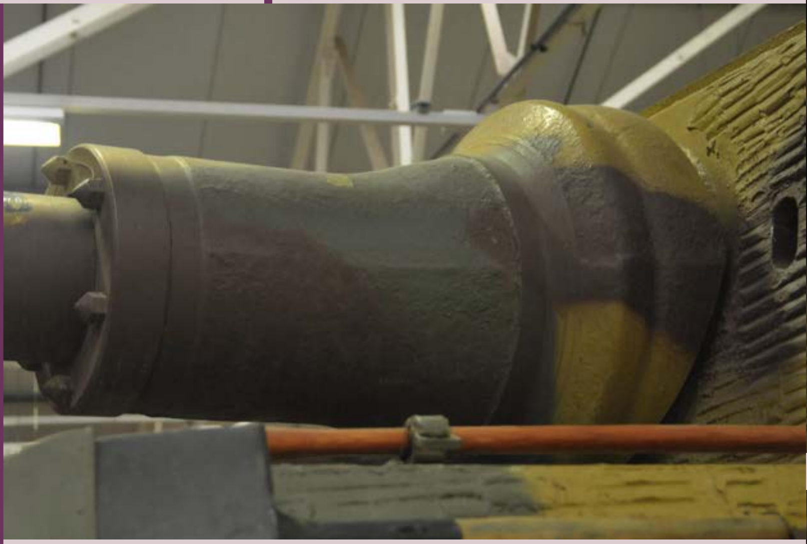
The two styles of overlapping road wheels.



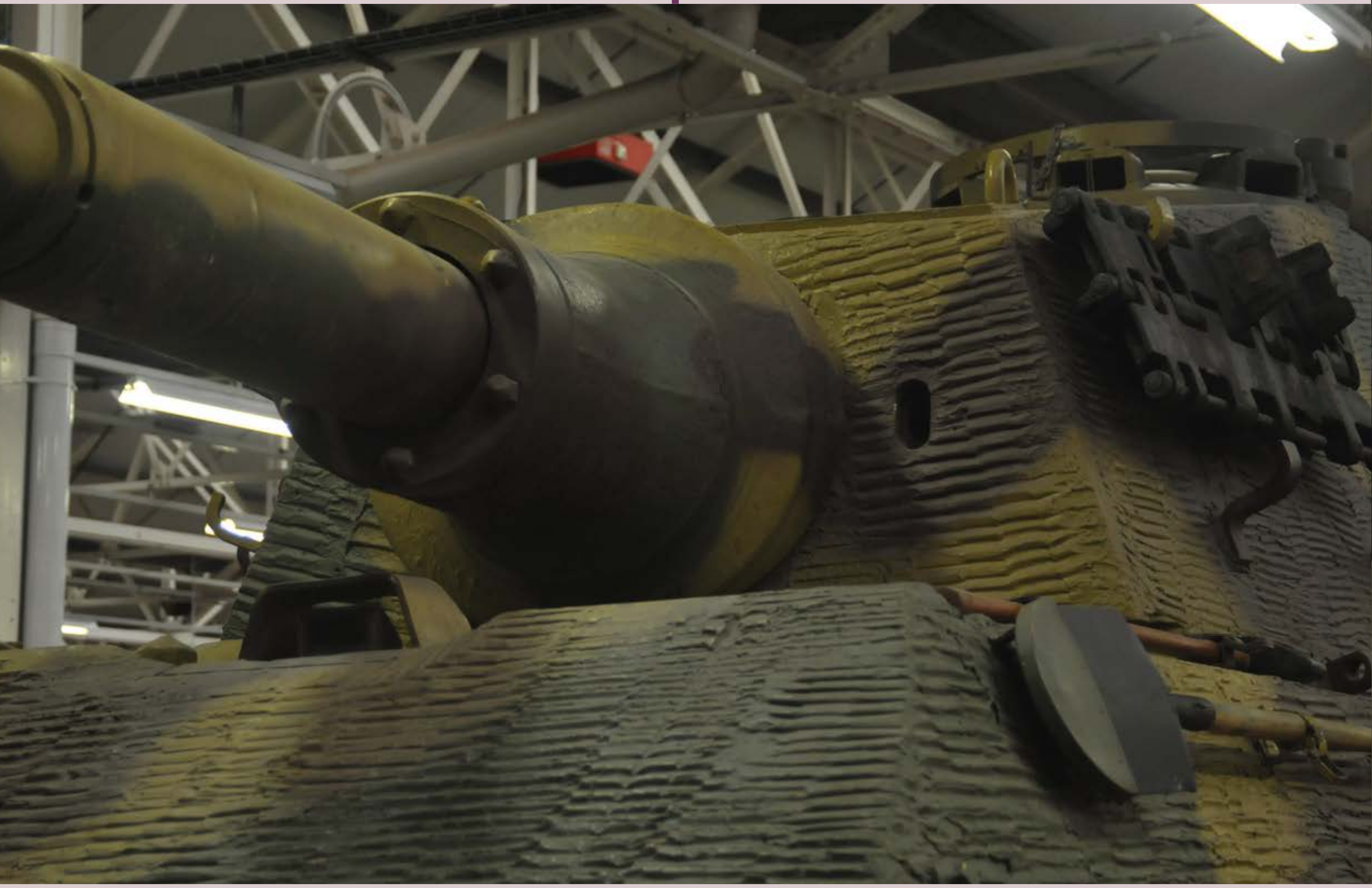
Idler wheel.



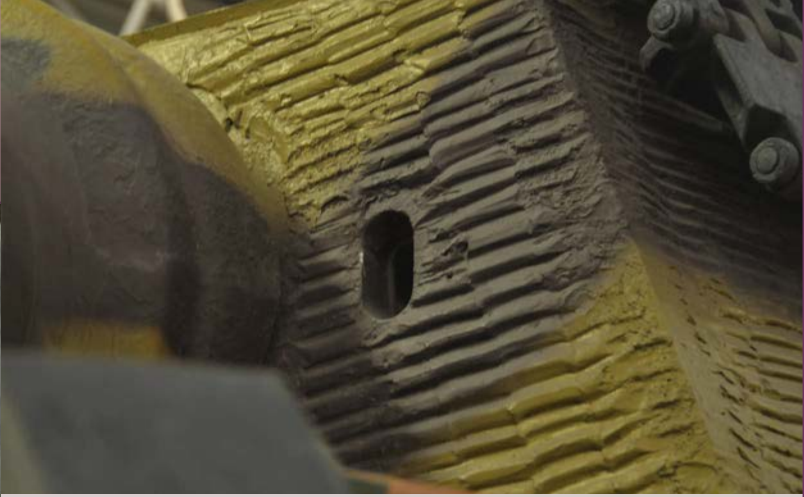
Muzzle brake.

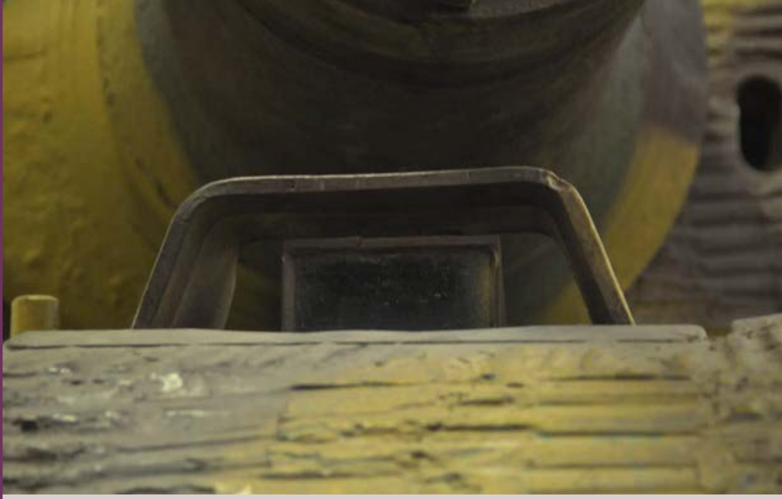


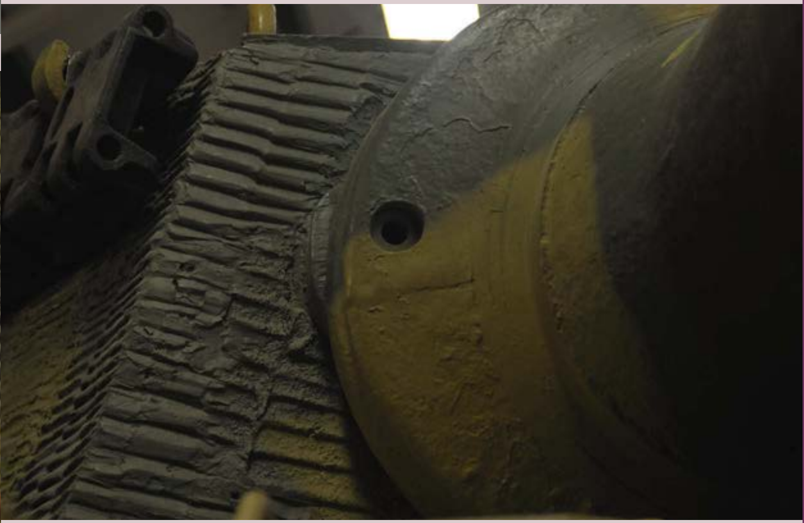
The cast mantlet.

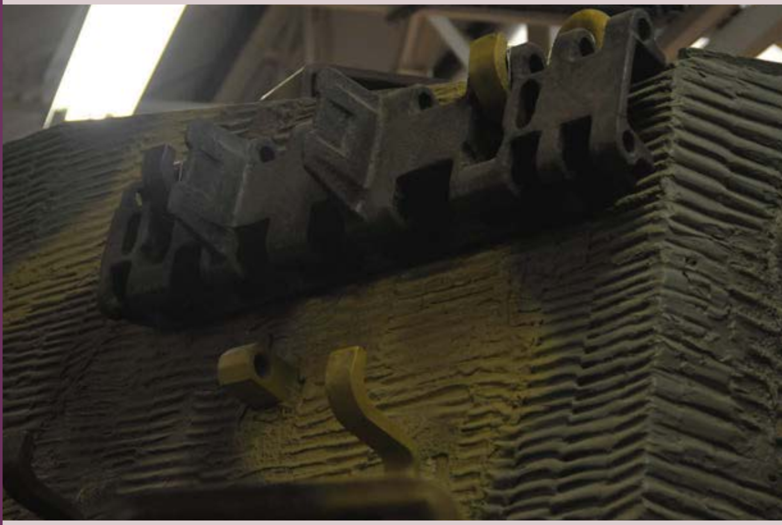


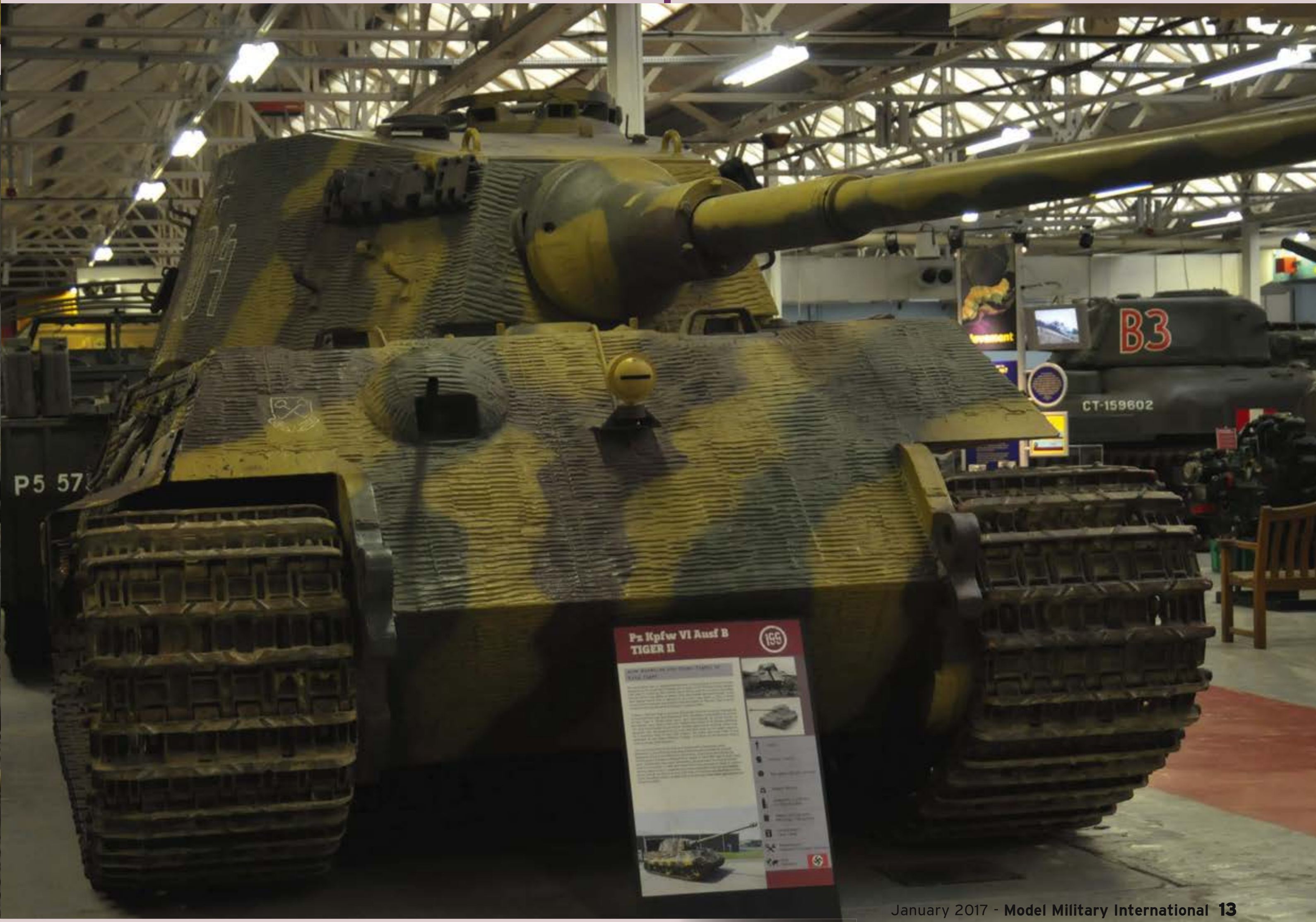
Forward turret including the opening for the Commander's sight.

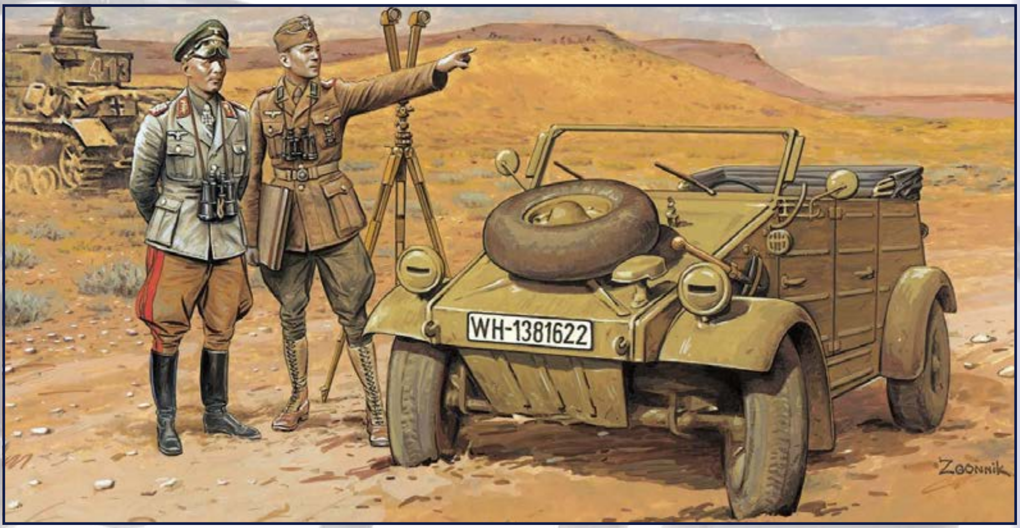

Close-up view of the Commander's sight aperture.


Driver's scope.


The opening for the turret co-axial machine gun.


Spare tracks and hangers.


Pz Kpfw VI Ausf B
TIGER II
165
B3
CT-159602
P5 57
An overall view of Bovington's Tiger II.



DESERT BUCKET

Andy King examines the Afrika Korps version of the Bego / Haseagwa / Dragon Kubelwagen

The Kubelwagen doesn't really need any introduction as it was used by the German armed forces and its allies everywhere during WWII on all fronts, captured examples proving pretty popular as well.

This is another re-pop by Dragon dating from the mid 1990s when it was originally boxed under the Bego label. In fact their name is still on the sprues. It also appeared under the Hasegawa label for a while before the moulds were acquired by Dragon, which in turn put it out under their Cyber-Hobby brand.

In the box you get a lot of plastic for such a small vehicle - nine sprues in grey styrene, one clear sprue, two small frets of etched metal and a decal sheet. Looking at the parts and for a 20 year old kit the moulding quality is very good with little flash plus what mould-pin marks are present are in hard to see areas such as under the fenders, the ones in the interior will be hidden by other parts.

The kit is billed as a DAK (Deutsche Afrika Korps) vehicle with the balloon tyres but regular wheels are on the sprues too so you could model any vehicle from any front that the German armed forces fought on, just supply your own decals. The detail is pretty good although the instrument dials are raised mouldings that require painting by hand and decals would be much better here. The rifle holders on the centre bar in the crew compartment are missing although these would be better in etch metal anyway.

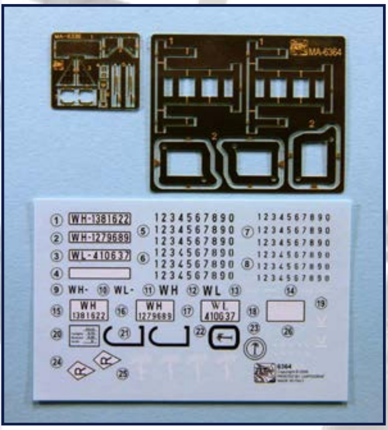
The wooden slats for the floor are included as is half an engine for the rear. All you would need to add is any pipe-work and cabling. Unfortunately tools such as the crank handle and jack are missing from the inside of the engine panel plus the folding bar that holds the panel up should you wish to display it open. The front compartment has some interior bits such as a jerry can but you would have to research further how the front panel opened up.

The figures supplied are of Rommel, an officer type in a classic pose of pointing into the distance and the two original seated figures from when the kit was first released. Rommel and the other standing guy date from the mid 1990s when Dragon first issued the kit in its DAK guise and the detail on both figures isn't as sharp as today's standard although they can be improved with some scribing. What is problematic and something seen on virtually every Dragon figure are what I call 'die-lines' running across the figure details and not easily rectified as they are quite fine but noticeable under a layer of paint, oddly enough the original seated figures have no such issue.

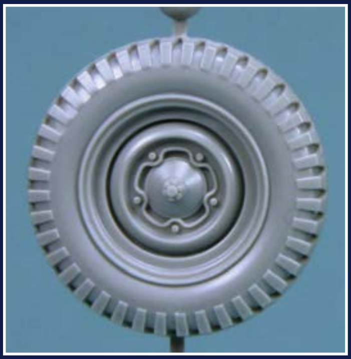
Only one colour scheme (a sandy one) is represented, as you would expect for a DAK vehicle, with just a change of licence plates and divisional markings. Not noted in the instructions are decals for a Ramcke Brigade parachute division vehicle so there's a little bit more choice for you.

Another kit that is 'getting on a bit' in modelling years but it's one of the better 'Kubels' available in 1:35 and dressed up with some aftermarket such as etch and stowage it would improve an aleady decent base kit no end. What might put people off is the RRP especially compared to the Tamiya offering but if you're not bothered about the Rommel figure I'm sure it can be found much cheaper, especially second hand Bego or Hasegawa examples. Highly Recommended! ■

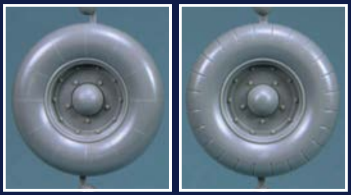
Thanks to The Hobby Company Limited for the sample
www.hobbyco.net



Decals and photo-etch are included.

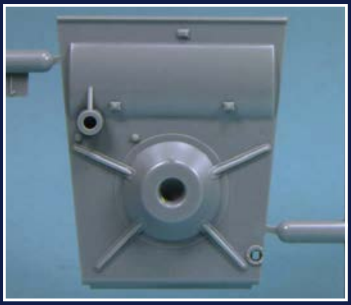


Balloon tyres are supplied for the DAK version.



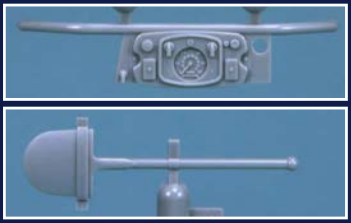
Regular tyres are on the sprues too.

Integrated upper rear body and back seat.



Upper forward body.

Body sides.



Crisp detail on smaller parts too.

Rommel is on board!

Another one of the figures.

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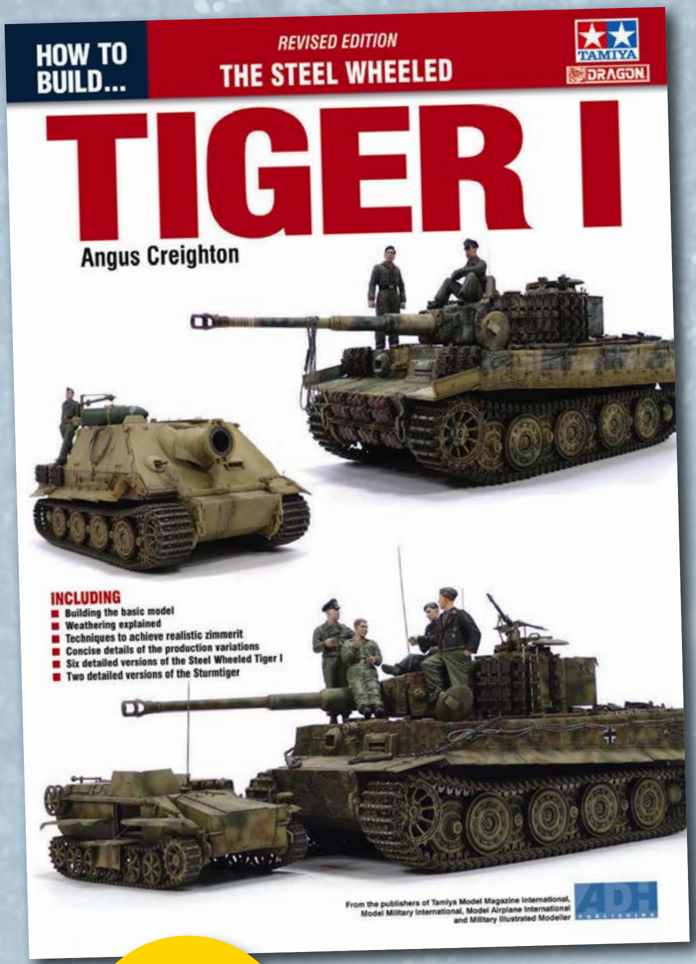
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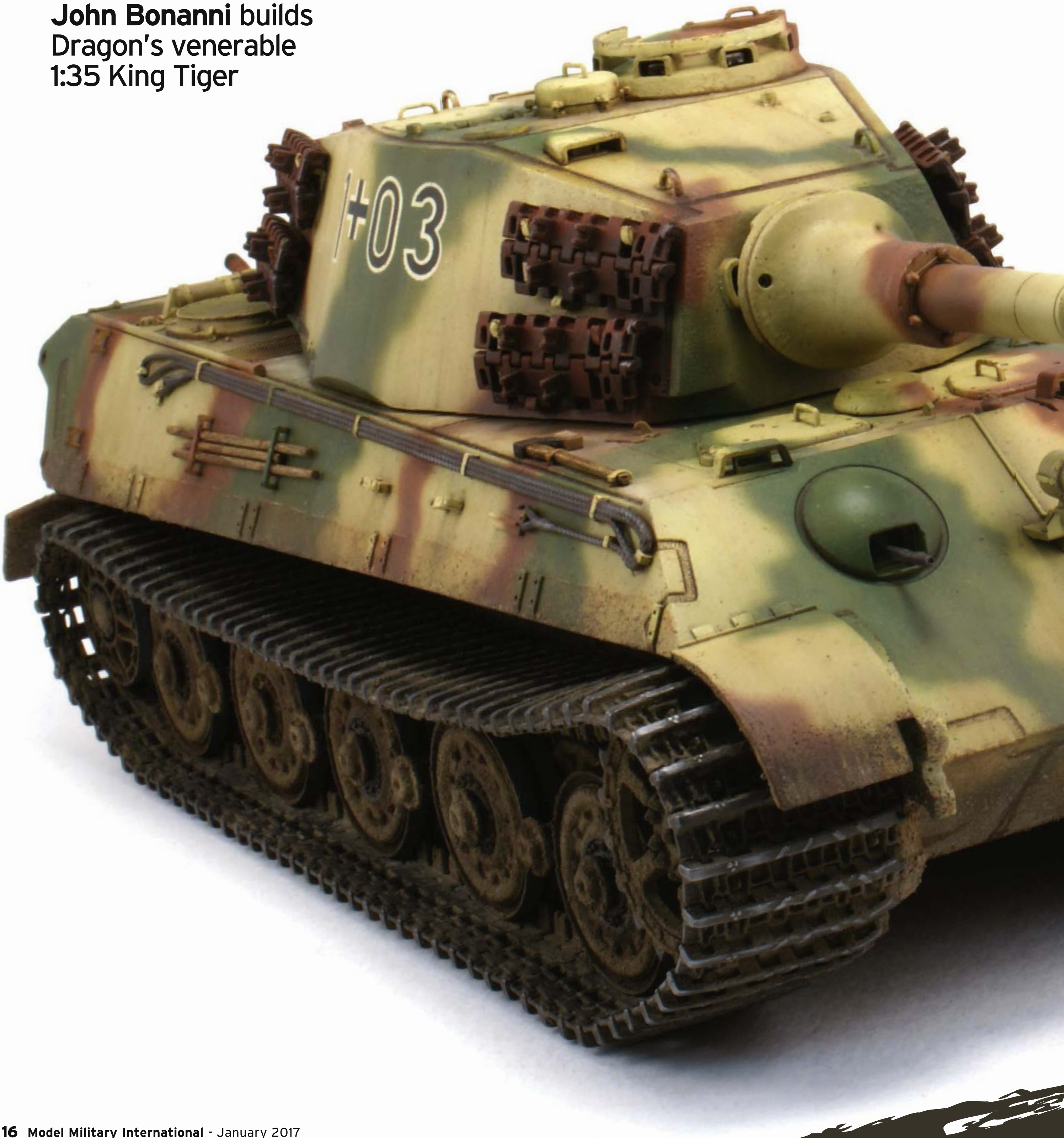
CHECK

John Bonanni builds Dragon's venerable 1:35 King Tiger



MATE

As Germany mounted their last major offensive through the Ardennes Forest in the Winter of 1944, they brought with them the mighty King Tiger.

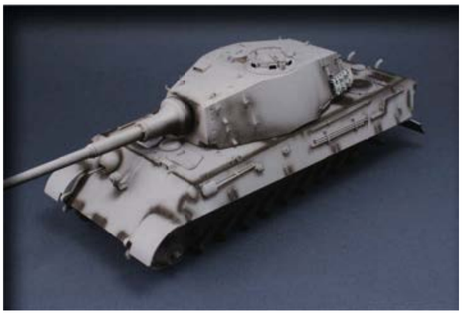
Arguably one of the most formidable armoured vehicles faced by Allies throughout the war, the King Tiger was a visually striking tank, but was employed in limited numbers.

For this build I choose Dragon's King Tiger Ardennes Offensive offering and modelled tank 109 from Schwere Panzer Abteilung 506. The vehicle was destroyed during the offensive and was laid to rest on the side of a road.

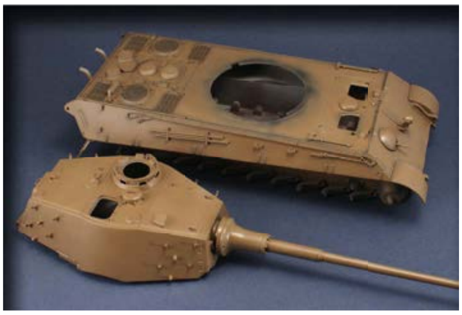
OPENING THE BOX

Moulded in light grey plastic the kit contains 649 pieces, which includes individual tracks links, etched brass, brass rounds, aluminium barrel, and length of steel cable. Construction was very straightforward with no major issues. The turret and hull surfaces were textured by stippling on Tamiya Extra Thin cement mixed with Basic Putty. Next, sandpaper was used to remove the rough texture and make it appear more like rolled steel. The only photo-etch added to the model was the manufacturer supplied engine deck screens. Lastly, all of the tools were added before priming. I have found that I am better with a brush than with super glue trying to attach the tools following painting. Priming began with a layer of grey lacquer to create a blank canvas for the painting and weathering. ▶

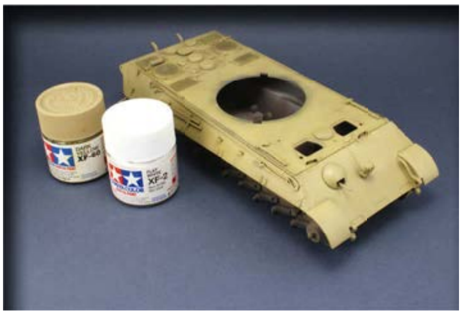
PAINTING



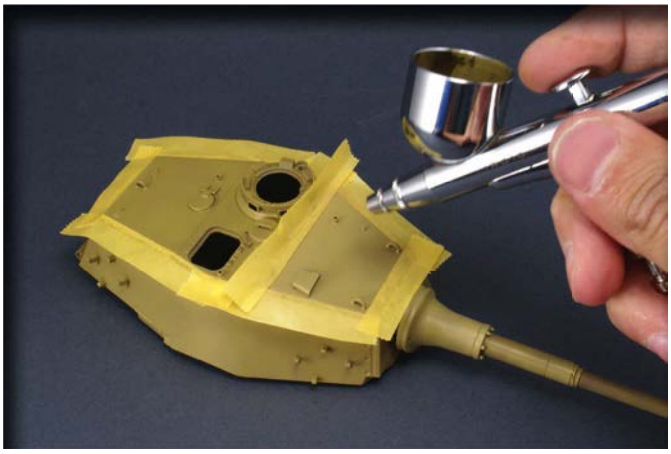
After priming, the model received minor black pre-shading, which was concentrated on large weld seams and on the undersides of the turret and hull.



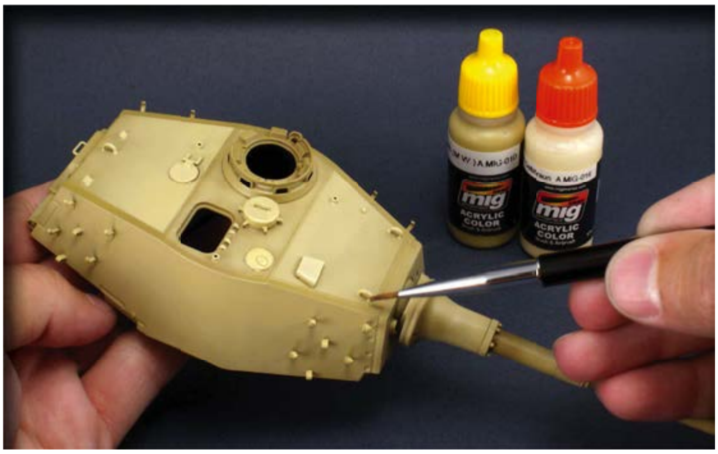
The modulation process began with a base coat of Tamiya XF-68 NATO Brown. The dark brown base coat will slowly be lightened with successive layers of dark yellow. The slight satin sheen was accomplished by adding a few drops of X-22 Clear to the mix. I have found it retards the drying time and allows the paint to flow better through the airbrush.



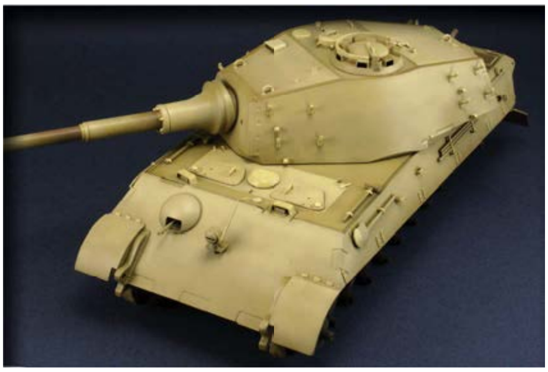
Next, a layer of Tamiya XF-60 Dark Yellow was added to bring the models colour closer to actual vehicles. It was important to not uniformly apply the dark yellow and vary the opaqueness of this paint layer.

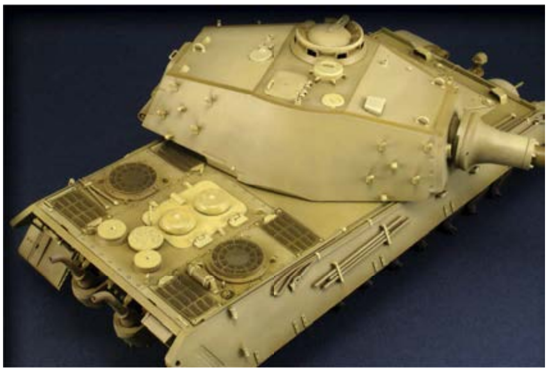


Tamiya Tape was used to selectively mask areas to force the lights perspective, I followed the same pattern throughout the vehicle. The top of vertical and slopped horizontal panels were given a lighter coat of dark yellow, which was slower faded into the underlying colour.

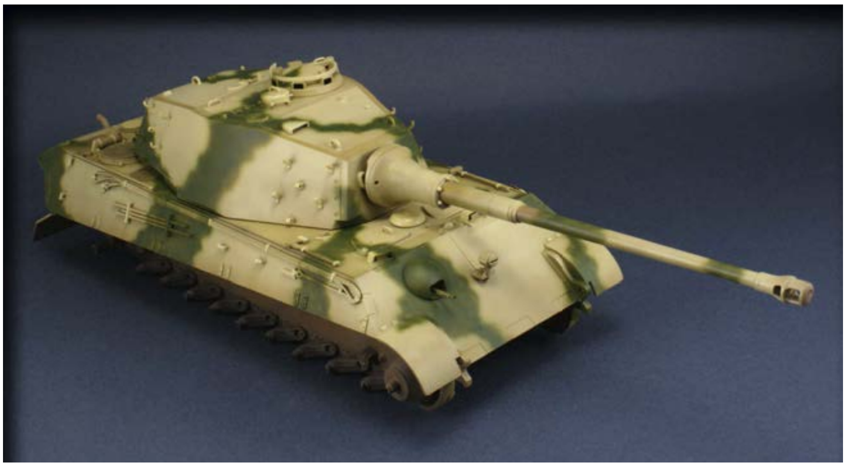


The last step of modulation is to pick out the details with a lighter base coat colour. For this step I switched to water based acrylics by Ammo of Mig Jimenez. These acrylics perform much better being brushed when compared to Tamiya acrylics.



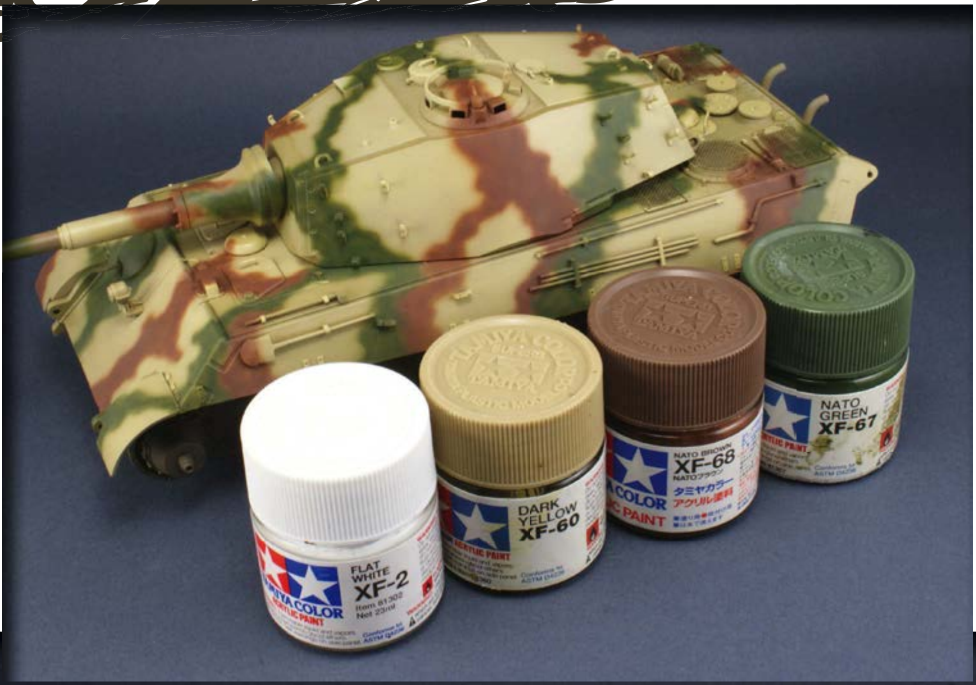


The completed detail painting shows the variety of details and panels highlighted. As the model stands now, the contrast is too stark. However, after applying the camouflage and multiple layers of weathering these highlighted details will create a subtle effect.

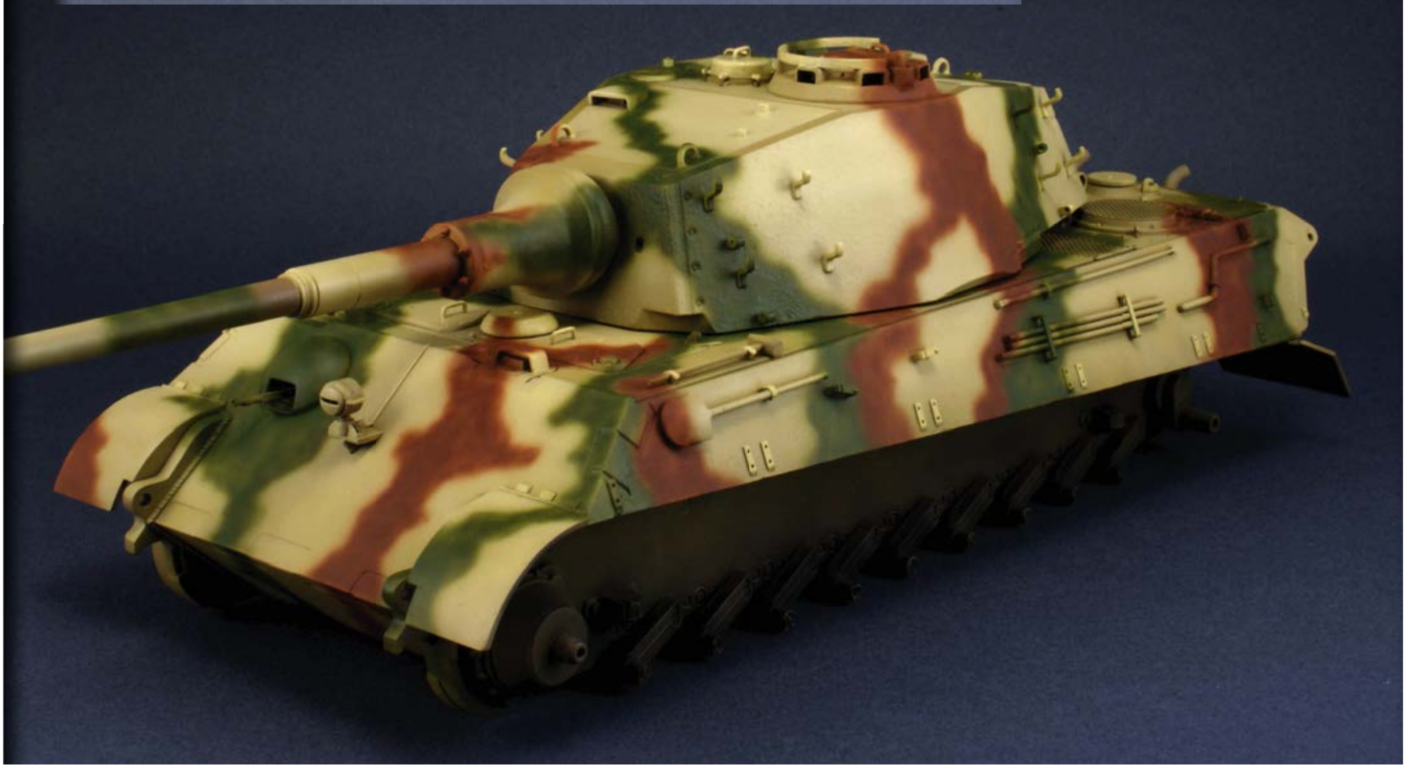


I used my old and trusty Iwata HP-C airbrush to apply the first camouflage colour, which was Tamiya XF-67 NATO Green. The colour was not lightened in any way, but was heavily thinned at a ratio of 3:1 with Tamiya XF-20A Thinner, the air compressor was set to 12 PSI (0.83 Bar).

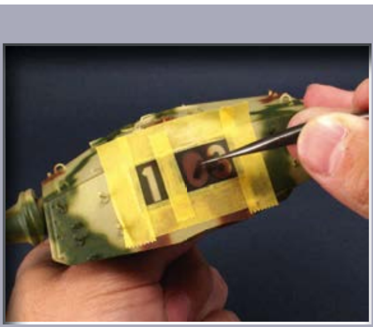
Every colour airbrushed was Tamiya thinned with X-20A. The XF-68 NATO Brown sections of camouflage were applied in the same manner as the green. Lastly, the model received a heavily thinned, 10:1, filter of dark yellow mixed with a few drops of white that toned down the vibrant camouflage colours.



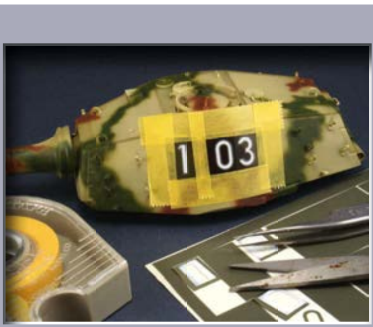
Before moving onto the markings, the entire model was given a coat of Tamiya X-22 Clear to protect the paint.



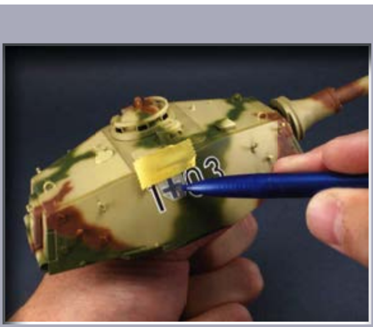
The gloss coat deepens the shades.



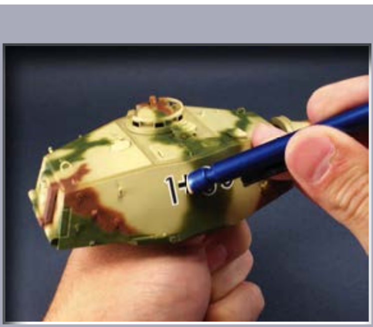
I choose to use Eduard vinyl masks instead of the kit supplied decals. The number 103 was chosen randomly, I've only seen pictures of 109. However, after painting 103 I stumbled onto pictures of 103! It turns out the actual vehicle had side skirts and different style of tracks...



After using the larger masks for the white portions of the numerals, the smaller masks for the black inner portion were applied. Both sets of masks were reused for each side of the turret. The black section masks were cleaned with lacquer thinner when used again to ensure they were lined up properly.

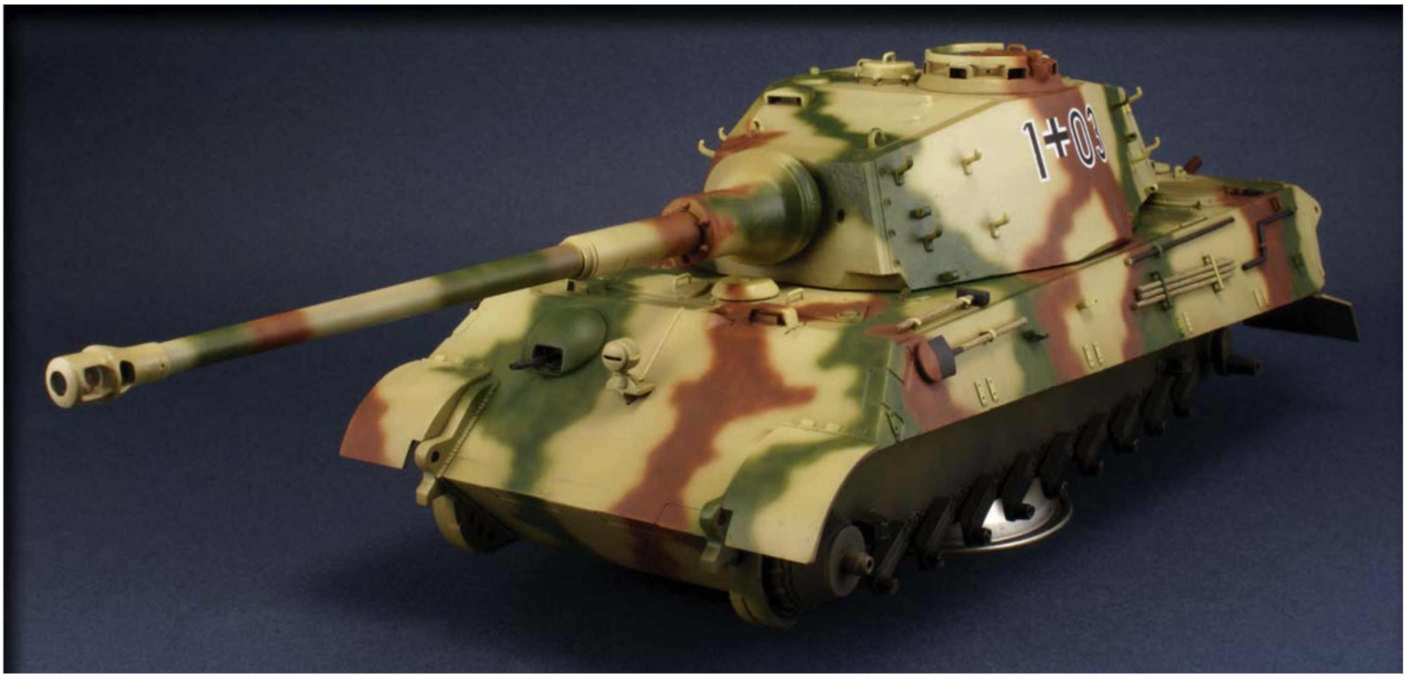


I did not have masks for the crosses so I used Archer Dry Transfers, my preferred method for vehicle markings. The first step was hold the decals in place with a strip of Tamiya tape. Next, I used a pencil to rub on the marking.

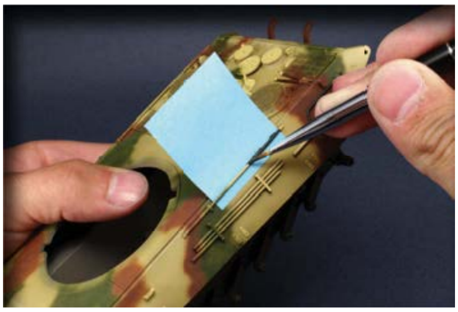


The last step was to use a clean pencil eraser to ensure the decal was snug to the models surface. At this point the model was again given a coat of X-22 Clear to protect the markings during weathering.

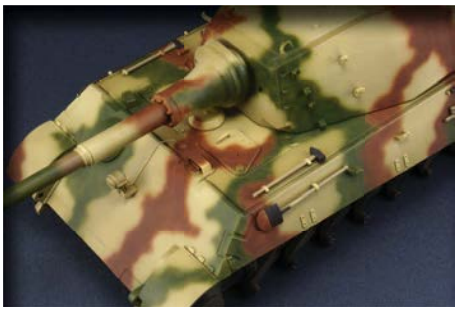
WEATHERING



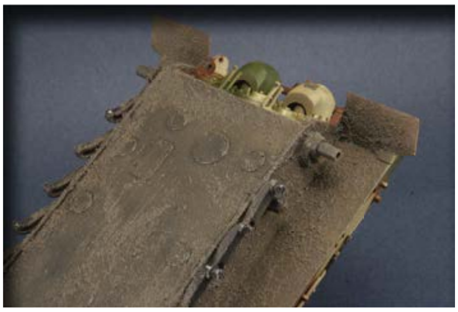
Ready for weathering! Note, even at this stage the exaggerated modulation effect has been subdued with the addition of the camouflage scheme.



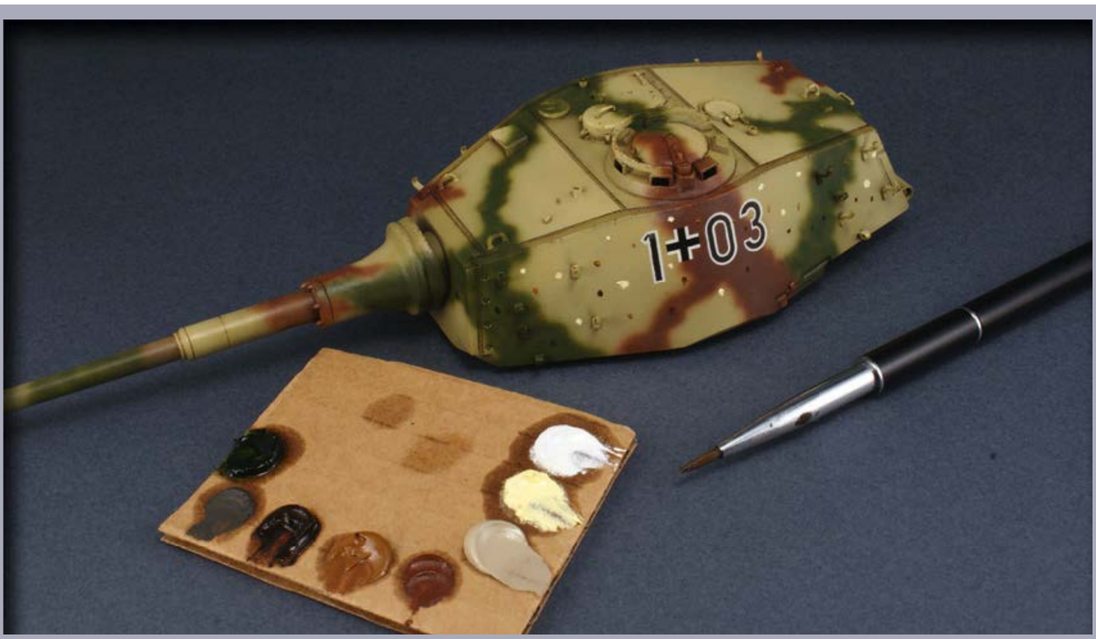
Everyone has a stack of unused Post-It notes at home, put them to use modelling. I find they are much easier to use than masking tape and can be easily taken off and moved. Note sheets were used to mask off sections of the hull when the tools were painted.



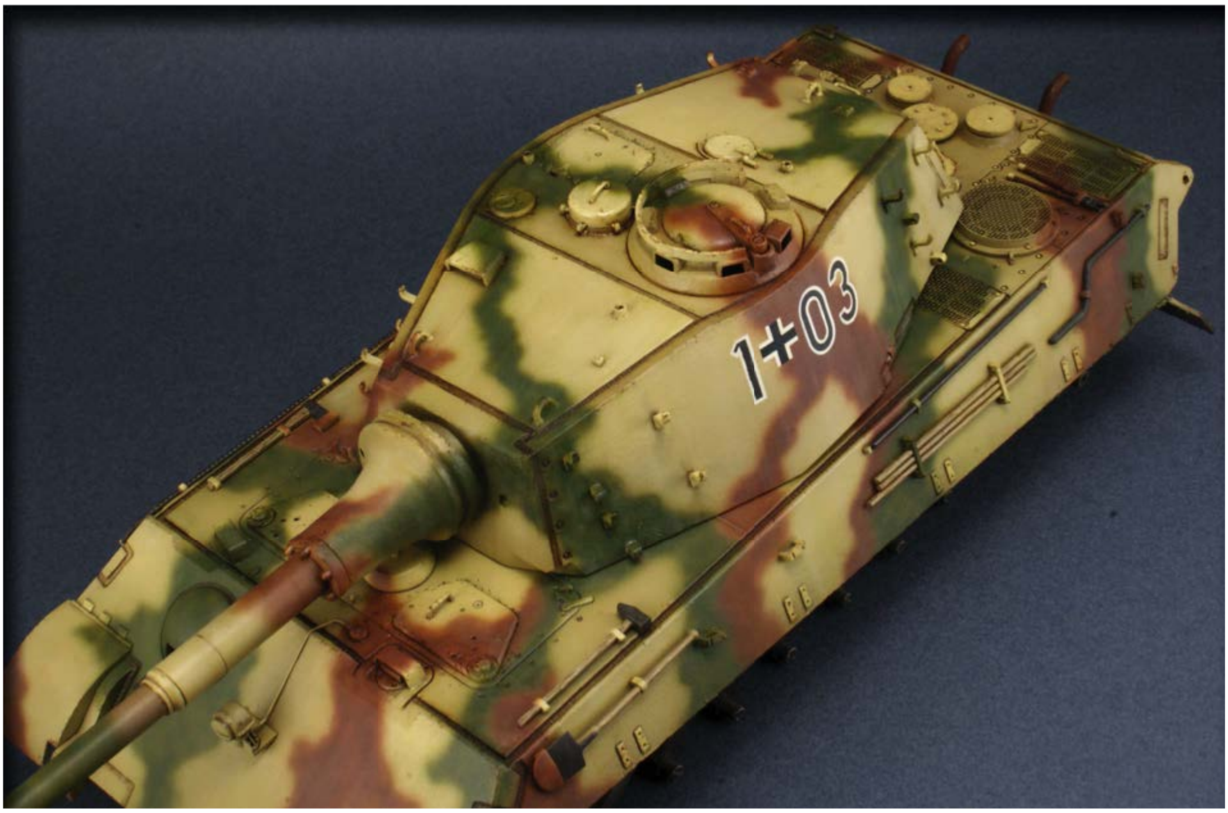
All of the tools were painted while attached to the model. The wood sections received a coat of Vallejo 70.880 Khaki while the steal parts were treated with Rubber & Tires 0033, an off black that is perfect base coat for metallic features. A 000 sable brush with 70.871 Leather Brown was used to add wood grain to the wooden handles.



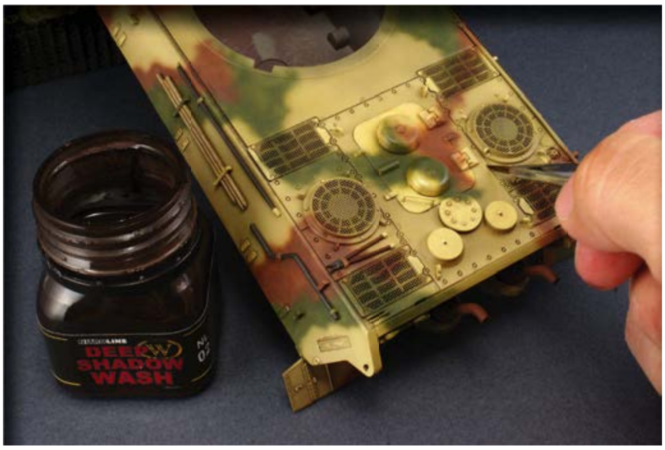
The first layer of heavy mud was made with Vallejo 26.218 Dark Earth, an acrylic paste filled with fine granules that dries satin. The paste was applied using an old brush, which was thrown away after this step.



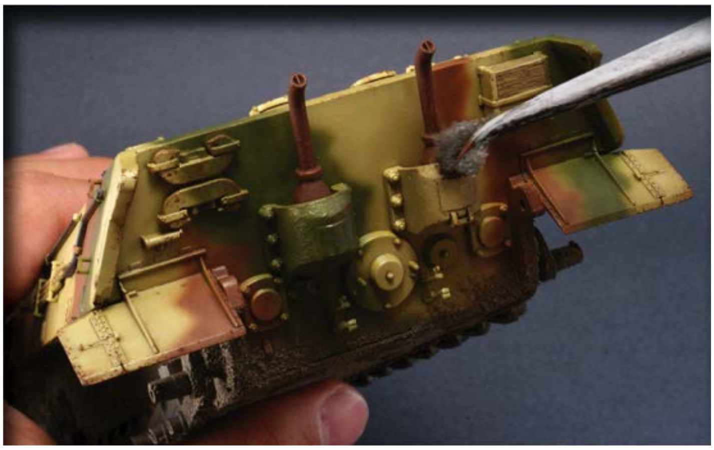
Only recently I have found the power of oil paints. Artist oils can add level of depth to a finish found nowhere else with other paints. I used a variety of brands: Winsor & Newton, AK Interactive, and 502 Abteilung. All perform roughly the same and can be blended to make more colours. In this step multiple colours were used to comprise a dot filter. These dots were then blended in a streaking motion on vertical surfaces and a stumping motion on horizontal surfaces.



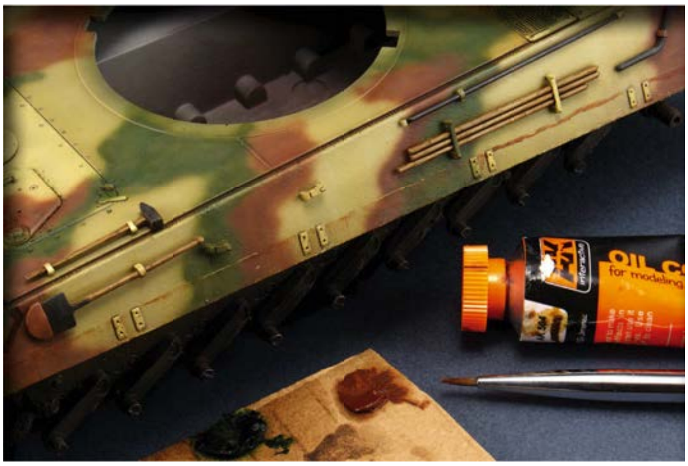
In addition to the dot filter, oil paints were used to enhance the shadows around conjoining plates and details. Winsor & Newton Raw Umber was brushed into the joints and allowed to cure for 10 minutes. Next, a clean brush dampened with mineral spirits was used to blend the edges. Once complete, the model was allowed to sit overnight to fully dry.



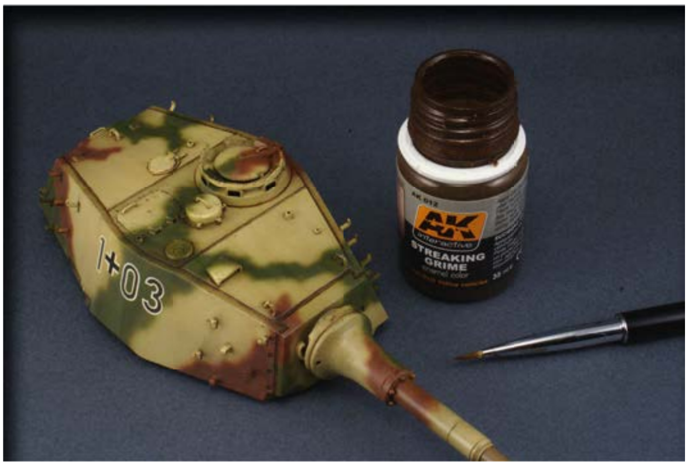
A pin wash was used to pick out all of the fine lines and small details of the vehicle. In this case Wilder's Deep Shadow Wash was used straight from the bottle. Excess wash was cleaned up using a clean brush.



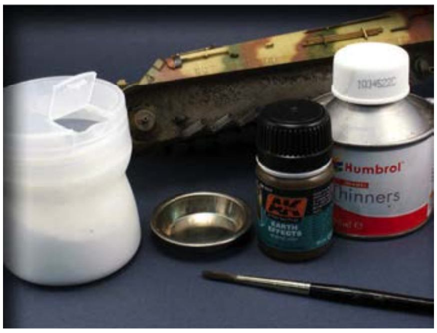
The first layer of chipping was done using a sponge and AK Interactive 711 Chipping Colour, thinned 1:1 with tap water. After that, more focused chips were added using a 00 sable brush followed by adding dark yellow mapped around the initial darker chips.



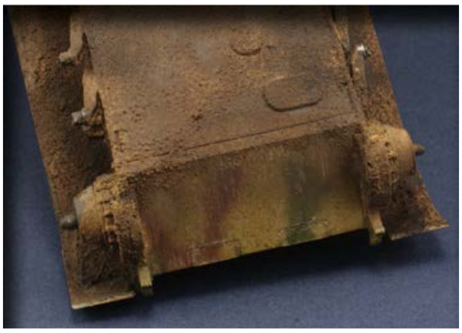
With the side skirts removed it was necessary to replicate the discolouration from where they were mounted. To add this demarcation rust oil paint was first applied at the top of the area, right portion of the picture. Next, a dry wide bristled brush was used to blend the colour down, left portion of the photo. It is important to use a dry brush, any trace of mineral spirits will wipe away the oil paint.



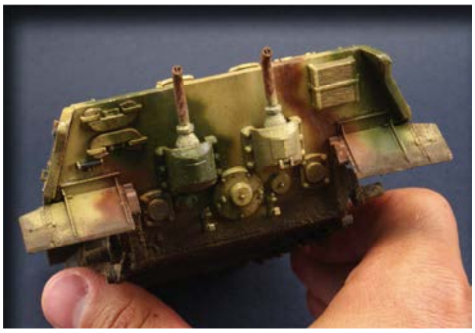
Darker streaks were added with AK Interactive Streaking Grime. A fine tipped brush was used to draw lines on vertical surfaces which were then blended with a brush dampened with Humbrol thinner. It is important when blending to never go directly over the enamel colour.



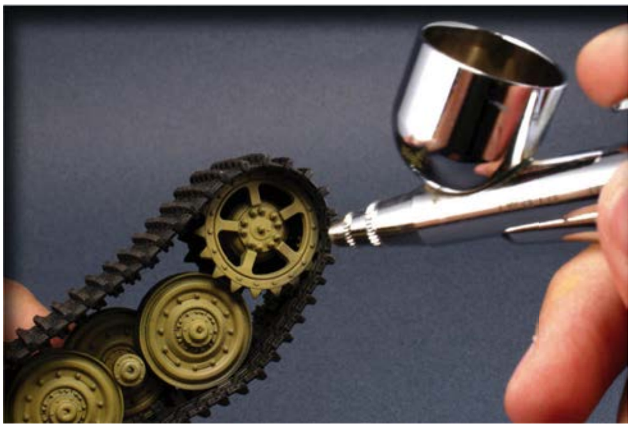
A mixture of AK Interactive Earth Effects, plaster, and Humbrol thinner was used to add more volume, texture, and tonal variation to the mud. The mixture was loaded onto an old brush and blasted onto the model using an airbrush. Masking is recommended during this step because the stuff flies everywhere!



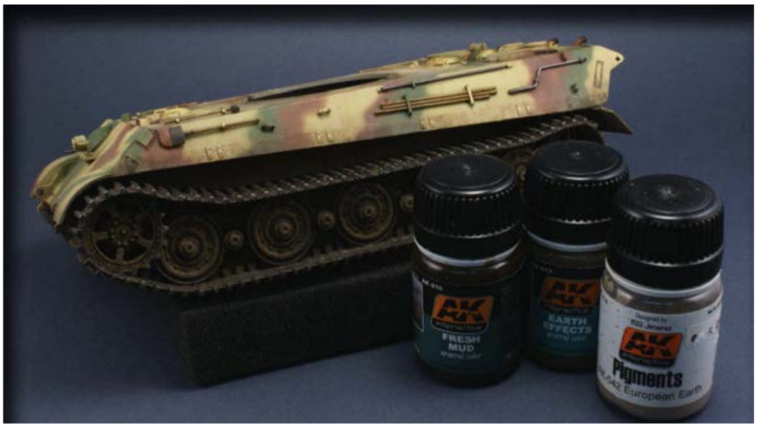
After adding multiple layers of different enamel effects a brush dampened with thinner was used to create subtle streaking.



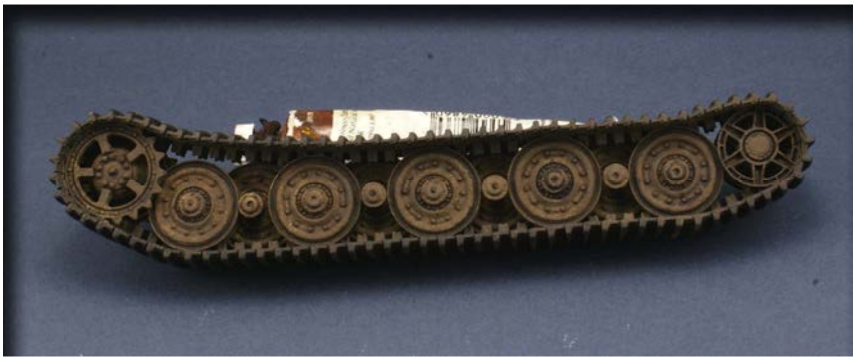
The exhausts received three coats of Life Colour rust tones at various levels of opacity. The lightest colour was added first followed by two darker shades. Lastly, AMMO Dark Yellow was thinned with tap water and added to the bottom of the pipes to replicate distressed paint.



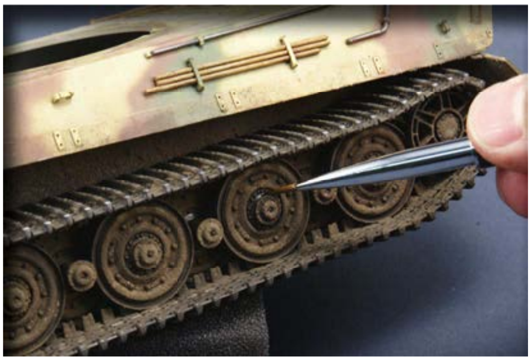
I prefer to assemble the suspension prior to painting. The wheels were first temporary bonded to the hull using stationary white glue. Next, the tracks were glued to the wheels using Tamiya Extra Thin liquid cement and allowed to dry overnight. Once fully cured the whole assembly was popped off the hull and painted.



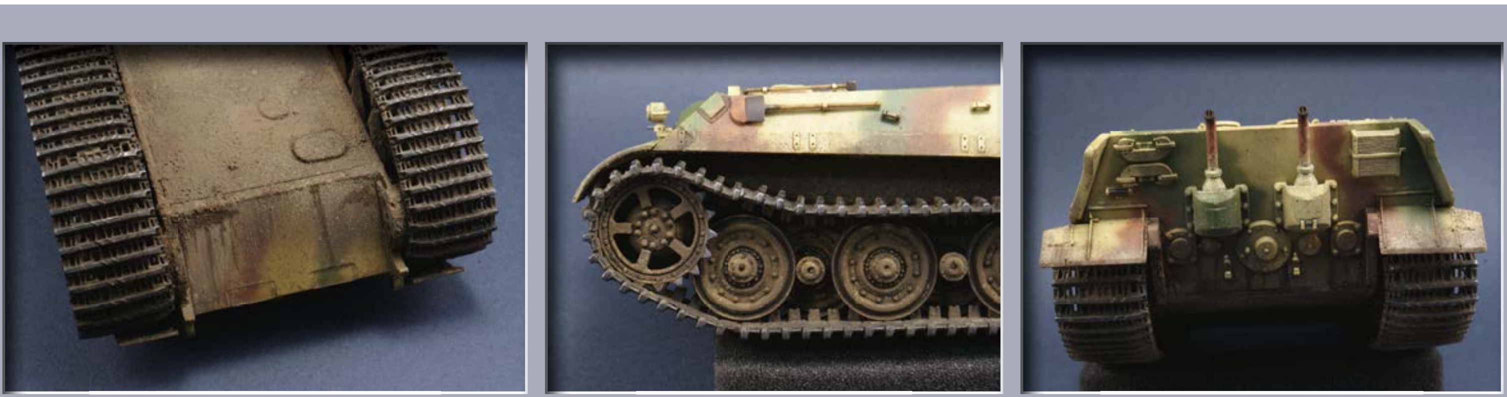
The first two layers of mud are blasted onto the model from a loaded brush. The first mud layer applied was a mix of AK Interactive Earth Effects enamel effects, European Earth pigment, and plaster.



A darker second layer was applied with Fresh Mud added to the mix.



Grease was added to some of the hubs using AK Interactive Engine Oil mixed with Winsor & Newton Mars Black, which gave the effect a darker colour.

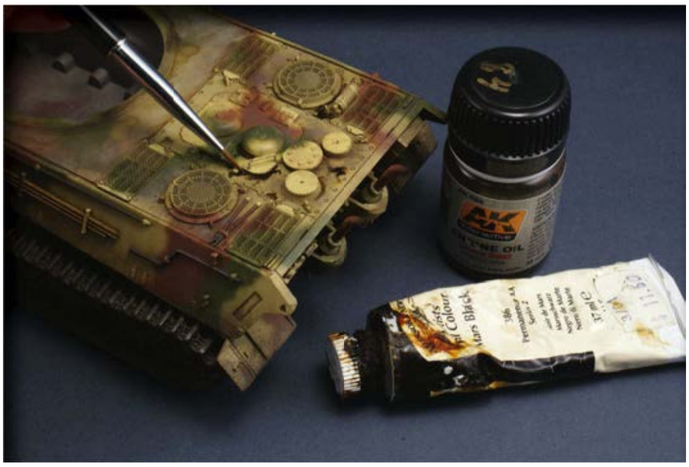


Damp mud areas were created by brushing on Fresh Mud, thinned with Humbrol enamel thinner, around fittings and in crevices.

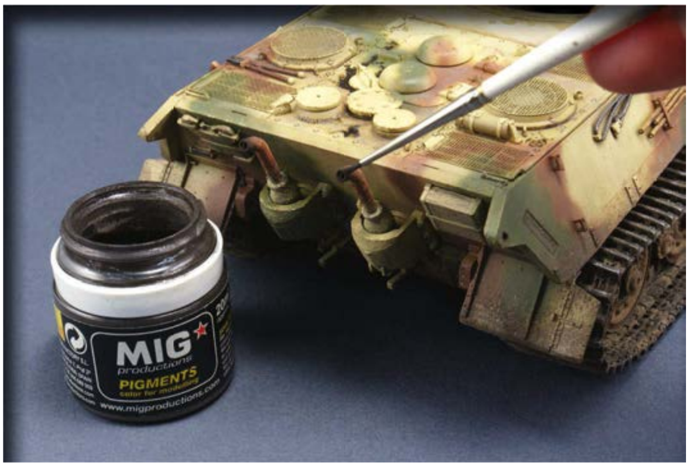
The tracks were also painted using the modulation technique.

Layers of oils and pigments strengthened the effect.

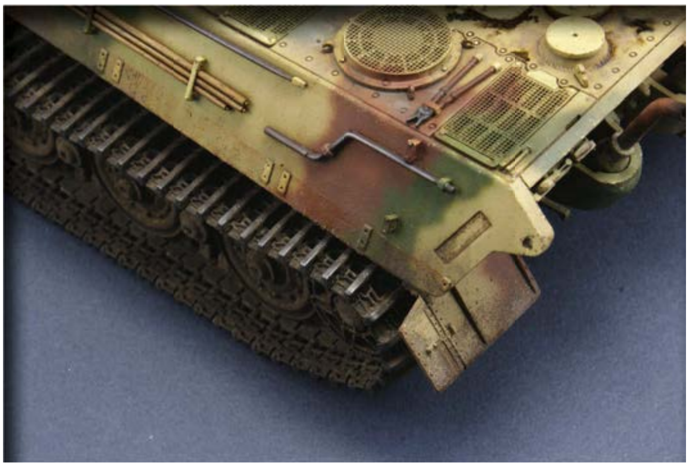
Rust colours were enhanced with Lifecolour rust pigments, which were applied to the top of each link to enhance the modulated finish.



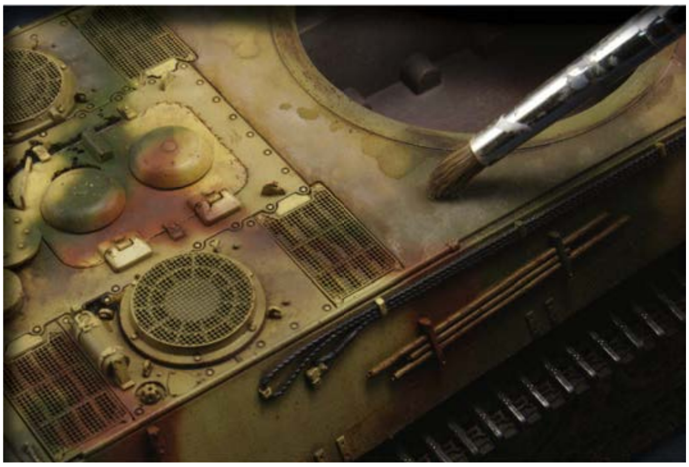
Grease stains were randomly added to the back deck using the same mix used on the road wheels. I was careful to make the stains reflect if it happened when the engine access door was open.



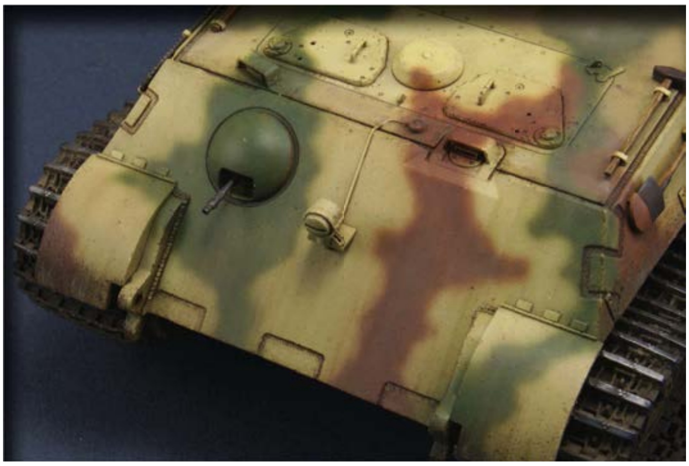
To finish off the exhausts black pigment was brushed on dry.



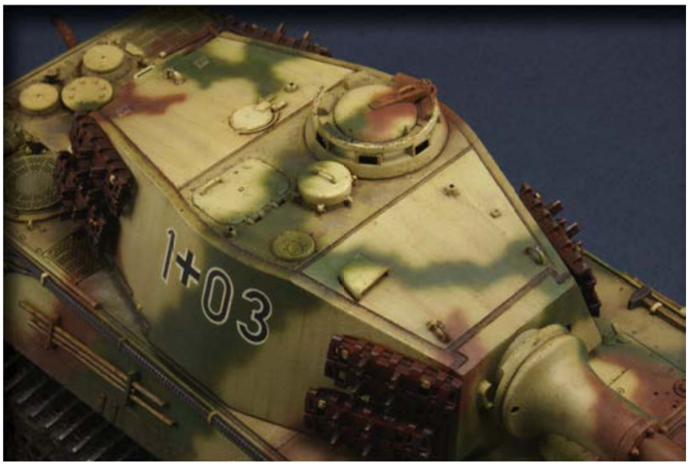
The last step to complete the tools was to rub on gunmetal pigment using a rubber tipped brush.



Pigments added to horizontal surfaces were stumped into the matt finish using an old brush.



Pigments were added to vertical surfaces as well, but a streaking motion was used to create the dirty lines.



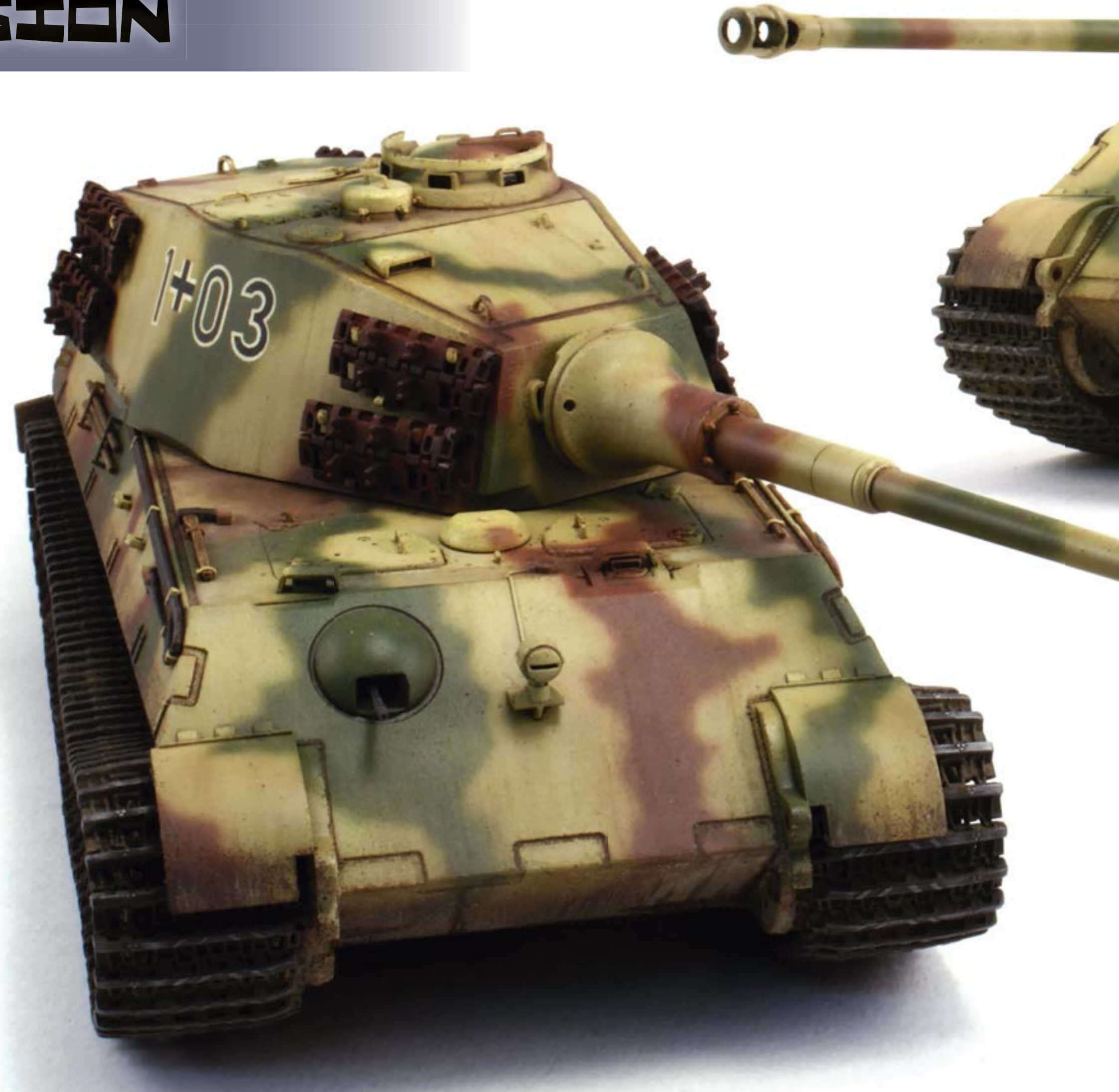
Dirt and grime on the turret was concentrated around the cupola and ventilator, an area less traversed by the crew.

CONCLUSION

◀ German armour is my favourite modelling subject. Vehicle configurations and camouflage choices are endless. I enjoyed learning how colour modulation looks under a camouflage scheme.

The brown and green soft edge patches helped blend the drastic contrast between dark yellow sections. Following weathering the modulation effect was further blended to create a finish that grabs the eye, but is not overdone.

In conclusion, the Dragon King Tiger is a perfect offering for someone that wants a detailed model and doesn't want to have to worry about aftermarket upgrades. ■



The Dragon King Tiger is a perfect offering for someone that wants a detailed model and doesn't want to have to worry about aftermarket upgrades.

Modelspec

Dragon 1:35 King Tiger Late Production w/New Pattern Track Ardennes 1944 Kit No. 6232

Tools and Materials Used

Tamiya Extra Thin Liquid Cement
Tamiya Tape
Eduard Vinyl Masks
Archer Dry Transfers
Iwata HP-C Airbrush

Paints and Finishing Products

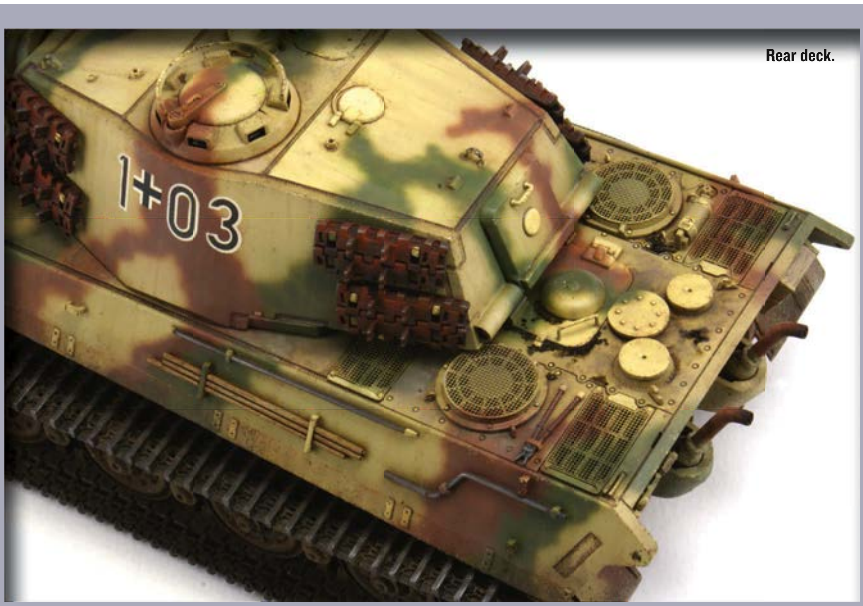
AK Interactive Acrylic Colours - Chipping
AK Interactive Enamels - Wash for Dark Yellow Vehicles, Engine Oil, Streaking Grime, Fresh Mud, Earth effects
AK Interactive Pigments - European Earth
AK Interactive Oil Paint - Rust
AMMO by Mig Jimenez Acrylic Colours - Rubber & Tires, Dunkelgelb
Mig Productions Enamels- Standard Rust Effects
Mig Productions Pigments - Black
Windsor Newton Oil Paints - Titanium White, Sap Green, Yellow Ochre, Vandyke Brown, Mars Black
Tamiya Acrylics - Clear, NATO Brown, NATO Green, Dark Yellow, Flat White
Tamiya X-20A Thinner
LifeColour Acrylics - Burned Rust, Corroded Rust, Streaking Rust
LifeColour Pigments - Eroding Burned Rust, Oxidation Rust
Humbrol Enamel Thinner
Vallejo Acrylics - Khaki, Leather Brown
Vallejo Textures - Dark Earth
Wilder - Brown Rust Speckling Effect, Deep Shadow Wash

☑ Easy tracks, ability to choose variants.
☒ Minor fit issues.

Available from

Dragon kits are distributed in the UK by The Hobby Company Limited www.hobbyco.net

Rating ●●●●●●●●●○



Rear deck.

Glacis and mantlet

> **"...the Dragon King Tiger is a perfect offering for someone that wants a detailed model and doesn't want to have to worry about aftermarket upgrades..."**

Subtle weathering enhances the realism of John's King Tiger.

Rear hull and exhausts.

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- Craft Knife - for cutting out shapes, decals and general craft/hobby tasks.
- Self Healing Cutting Mat - protects work surface and extends blade life.

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- 2x Classic Fine point blades #11
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- 1 x Chiselling blade #17

Blades to fit the #2 & #5 handle
- 2x Large fine point blades #2
- 1x Chiselling blade #18
- 1x Angled chiselling blade #19
- 1x Large curved carving blade #22
- 2x Deburring blades #24
- 1x Stencil edge blade #68

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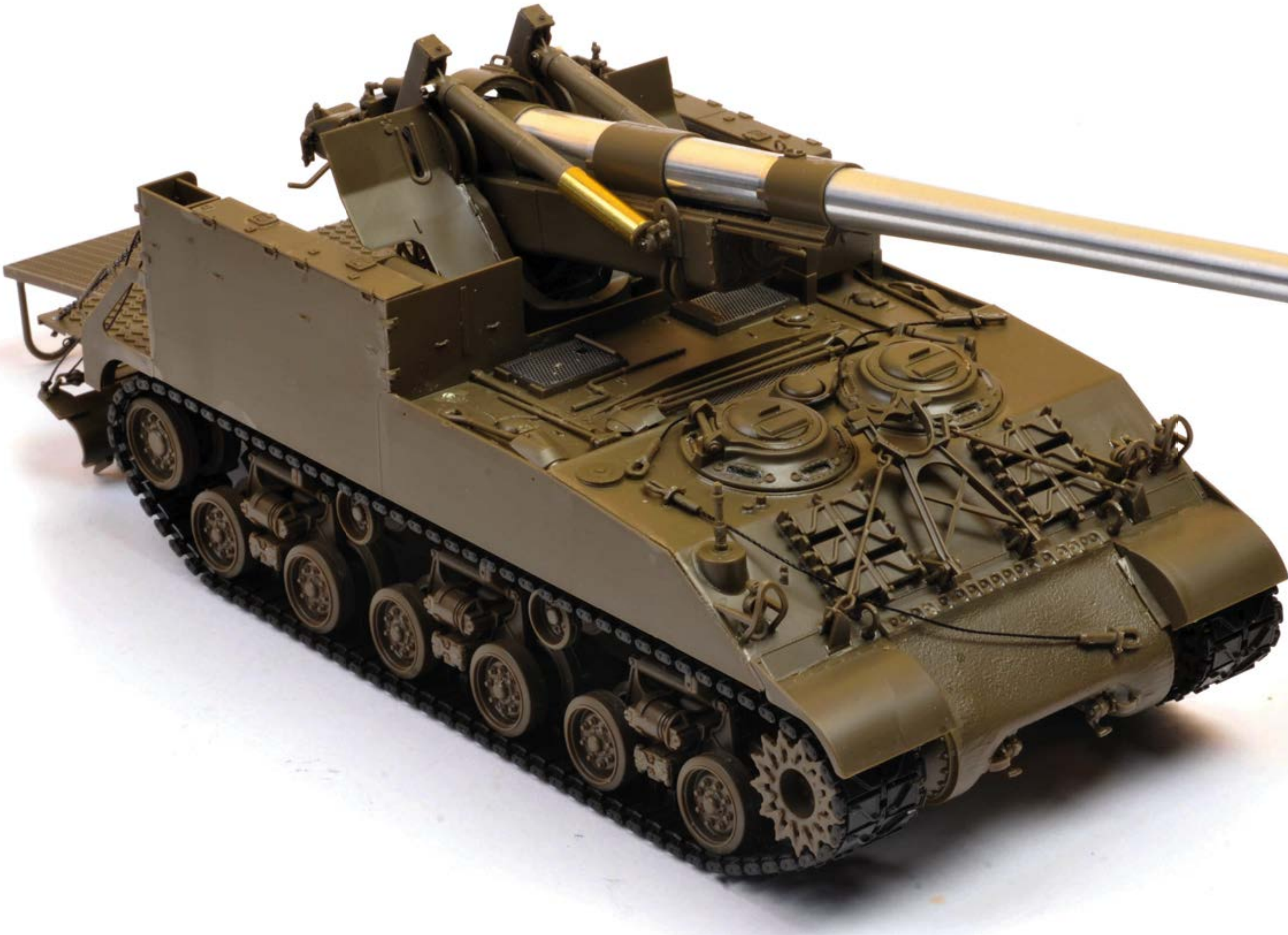


HEAVY HITTER

PART ONE - CONSTRUCTION

Brett Green gets his hands on an early production boxing of Tamiya's new 1:35 scale U.S. M40 Self Propelled Gun.

The 155 mm Gun Motor Carriage M40 was an American self-propelled artillery vehicle built on a widened and lengthened Medium Tank M4A3 chassis, but with a Continental engine and with HVSS (Horizontal Volute Spring Suspension), which was introduced at the end of the Second World War. Equipped with a 155 mm M2 gun, it was designed to replace the earlier M12 Gun Motor Carriage. Its prototype designation was the T83, but this was changed to the M40 in March 1945.

A single pilot vehicle was used in the European Theatre in 1945 by 991st Field Artillery Battalion, along with a related 8 inch Howitzer Motor Carriage T89, (later re-designated the M43 Howitzer Motor Carriage) which was sometimes also equipped with a 155 mm barrel. A total of 311 out of a planned 600 were completed by the Pressed Steel Car Company before the end of the war, 24 of which were later converted into M43s. From there it was deployed during the Korean War.

After World War II, the M40 was used by the British Army, who designated it 155 mm SP, M40 and called it Cardinal in the tradition of using ecclesiastical names for SP artillery, such as Deacon, Priest, Bishop and Sexton.

A complete gun section consisted of one M40 GMC and one M4A1 high-speed tractor towing an M23 ammunition trailer. Each battery had four gun sections. The M4A1/M23 combo replaced the earlier M30 cargo carrier.*

IN THE BOX

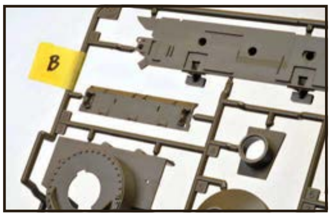
Tamiya's new 1:35 scale M40 GMC comprises 424 parts in olive coloured plastic, 50 parts in grey plastic (figures), 20 parts in clear and two black full-length flexible tracks. In addition to the plastic parts, there are quite a few multimedia elements including 10 parts on a modest photo-etched fret, 17 polythene caps, 2 brass tubes, 2 steel pins, 1 chain, several lengths of string, tiny screws and nuts and even a small screwdriver.

The kit is almost all new. The running gear sprues are taken from Tamiya's 2011 Israeli M51 release, as are the full-length vinyl T80 tracks. The running gear depicts the later Horizontal Volute Spring Suspension (HVSS) suspension units. These are well detailed but simple to assemble with only eight parts per bogie. Although the M40 hull is wider and longer than the M4 Sherman, the bogie units are the same – just spaced out further along the hull. The additional width is achieved using wider final drive housings on the standard transmission cover. ▶

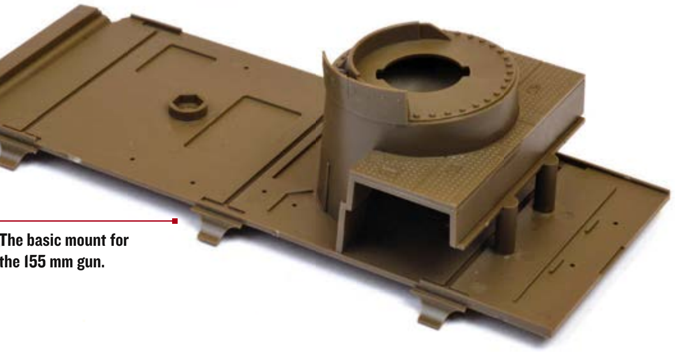
U.S. SELF-PROPELLED 155mm GUN M40
TAMIYA

Tamiya's box art.

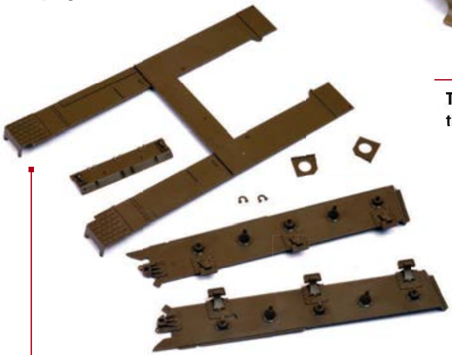
Bag o' bits. A number of metal and other multimedia parts make up the parts count.



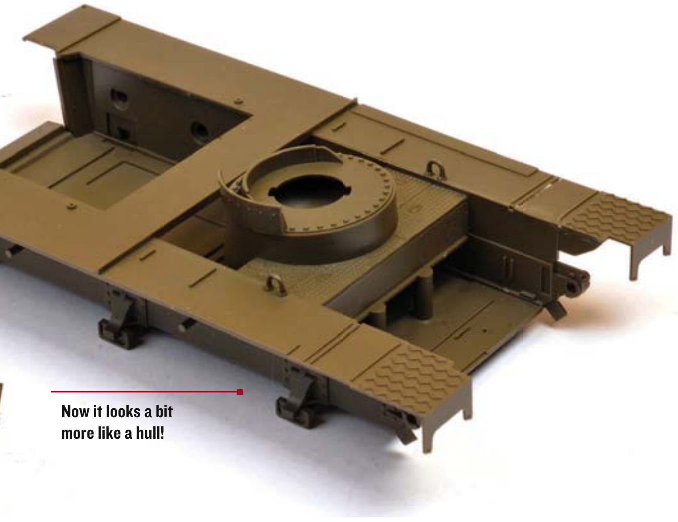
Tamiya's instructions suggest that the sprues should be tagged with a highly visible masking tape flag marked with the sprue letter. Sounds like a good idea to me!



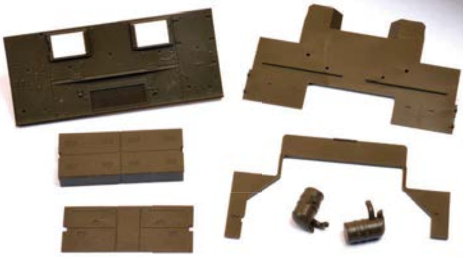
The basic mount for the 155 mm gun.



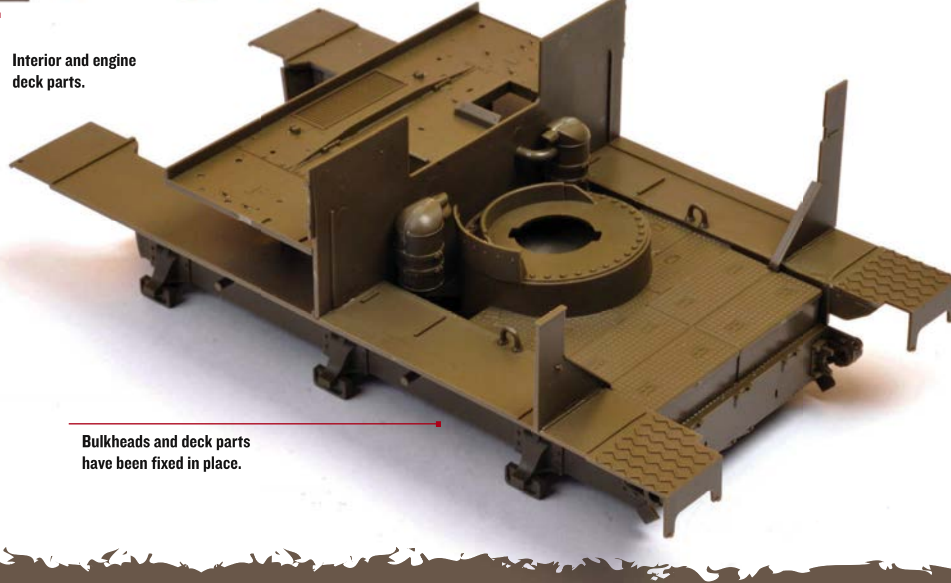
Lower hull sides and the sponson section are ready to be glued in place.



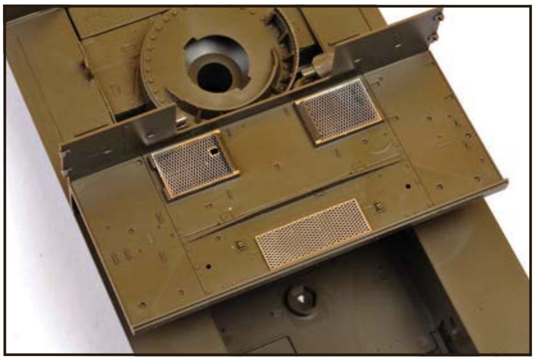
Now it looks a bit more like a hull!



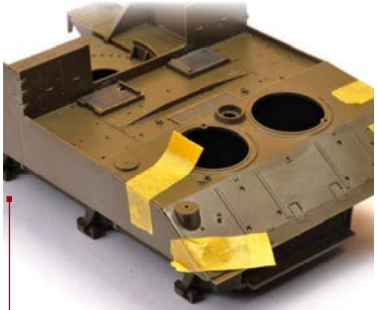
Interior and engine deck parts.



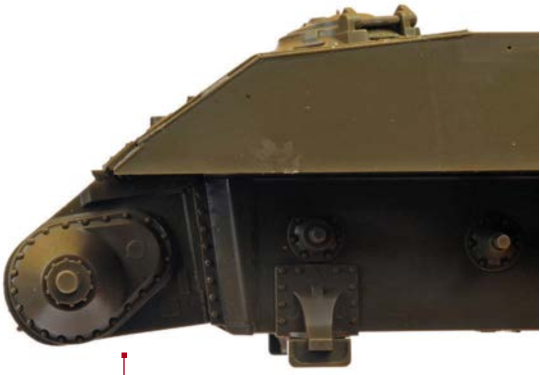
Bulkheads and deck parts have been fixed in place.



Tamiya includes engine grilles as photo-etched parts.

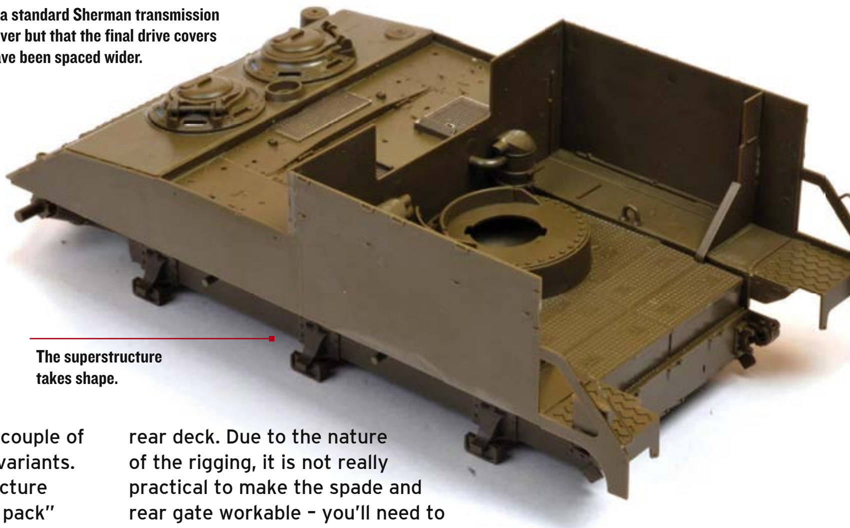


Transmission cover ready to be attached to the hull. Note that this is a standard Sherman transmission cover but that the final drive covers have been spaced wider.



This peculiar droopy attitude of the transmission cover is how it is supposed to look!

The driver's and radio operator's cupolas feature clear vision blocks.



The superstructure takes shape.

◀ The T80 tracks are full-length and flexible. These may be glued using regular polystyrene cement. Exterior and side connector detail is excellent. The guide horns are solid blocks with a hole in the top of each one. The guide horns on the real T80 track were hollowed out from front to back, but fortunately the absence of the open guides is almost completely hidden once the model has been assembled.

The clear parts have also appeared previously in a couple of recent Tamiya Sherman variants.

The hull and superstructure are made up from a "flat pack" arrangement of separate floor, sides and firewalls. Engine deck grilles are supplied as photo-etched parts.

The large travel lock is designed to be workable. The spade and the rear deck may be posed closed or lowered. String is supplied for the spade's winch and pully system, with fine chain included for the rear deck. Due to the nature of the rigging, it is not really practical to make the spade and rear gate workable – you'll need to decide one way or another.

The driver's and radio operator's cupola each feature separate clear vision blocks fitted from the inside. The two hull hatches may be posed either open or closed.

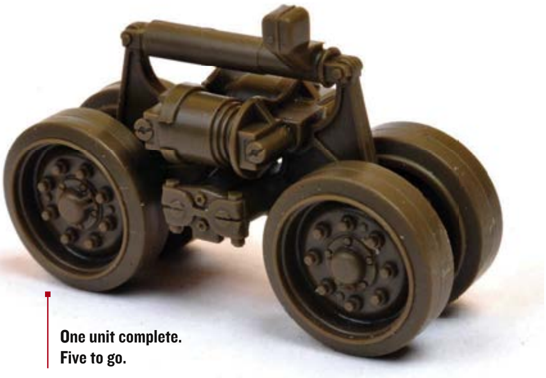
The interior of the fighting compartment includes six seats which may be stowed or folded down, plus ammunition racks and additional stowage bins.

The gun and its mount are very detailed and are made up from a number of sub-assemblies. Despite its size and weight, the gun will freely elevate and traverse when complete, including working equilibrators, thanks to the use of polythene caps, steel pins, brass tubes, screws and nuts.

> **"The running gear is a joy to work with. I've built two of these sets of Tamiya HVSS suspension units before and I am just as impressed this time as I was with the others..."**

The drive sprockets and idler wheels are fixed with polythene caps.

Eight easy pieces – this is all that is needed for a single HVSS bogie unit.

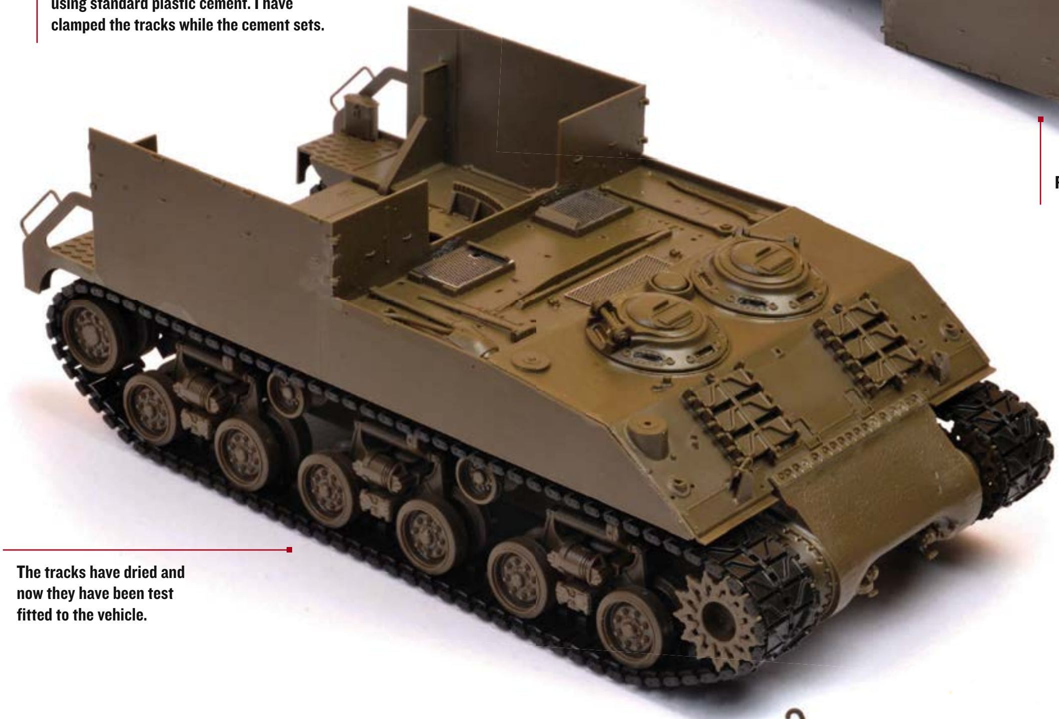


One unit complete. Five to go.

Running gear components are ready to be glued to the lower hull sides.

The full length flexible tracks may be glued using standard plastic cement. I have clamped the tracks while the cement sets.

Running gear in place.



The tracks have dried and now they have been test fitted to the vehicle.

Markings are supplied for two Korean War era vehicles.

In addition to the basic kit, Tamiya has released a separate metal gun barrel set with a turned metal barrel and eight turned brass rounds. The barrel is rifled at the end and decals are included for the rounds.

CONSTRUCTION

This is a more complex vehicle than most of Tamiya's recent 1:35 scale releases. The parts count reflects this to a certain extent. Although 500-odd parts is not an especially high total by current kit standards, it is relatively high for Tamiya.

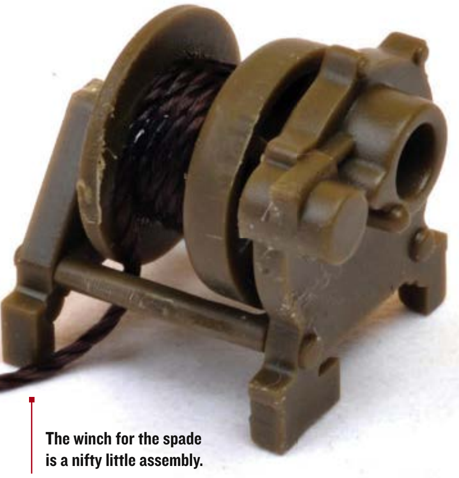
Having said that, the kit is typical of this manufacturer in its sensible parts breakdown and excellent fit, so all you really have to do is focus and follow the instructions to achieve an attractive result.

The entire hull and superstructure are made up from separate panels. Building the model is quite a satisfying process as you add layer upon layer to the hull, the running gear, the fighting compartment, exterior detailing and finally the gun. ▶

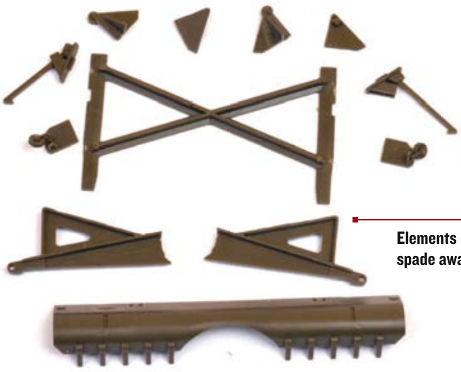
The nine-piece travel lock may be made workable with careful application of glue.

Interior stowage and seats.

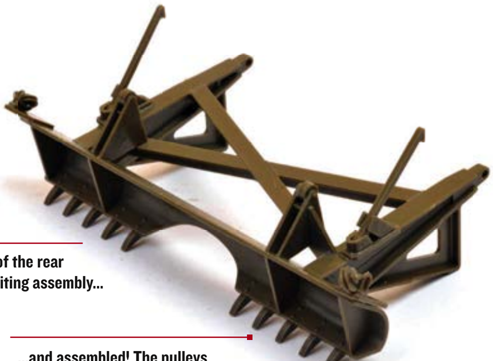
Ammo racks are supplied as two halves that interleave to create each unit.



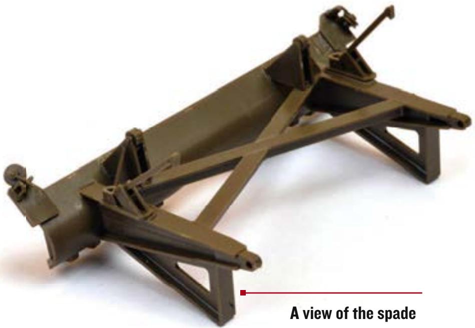
The winch for the spade is a nifty little assembly.



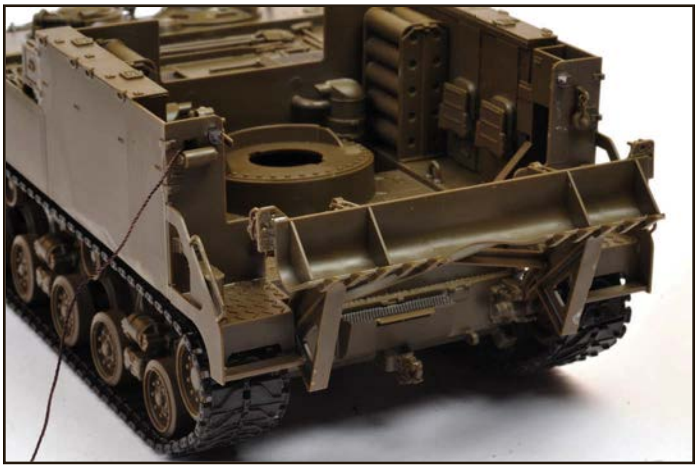
Elements of the rear spade awaiting assembly...



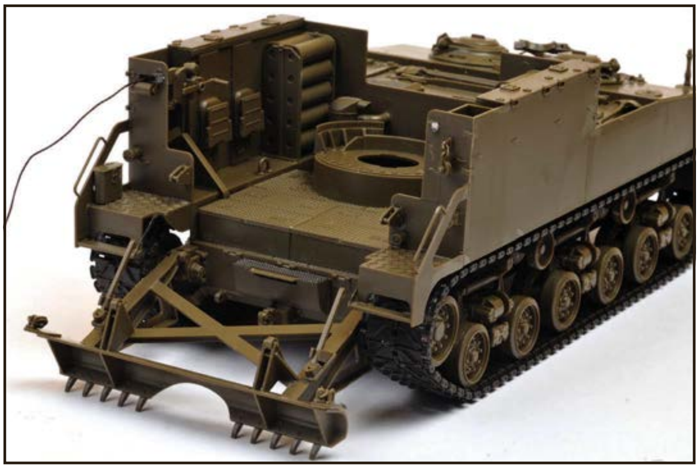
...and assembled! The pulleys and upper arms are workable.



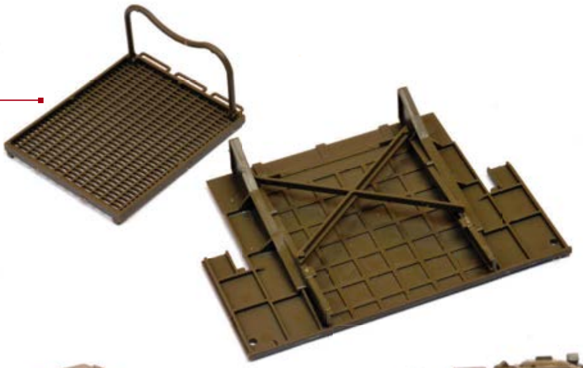
A view of the spade from the rear.



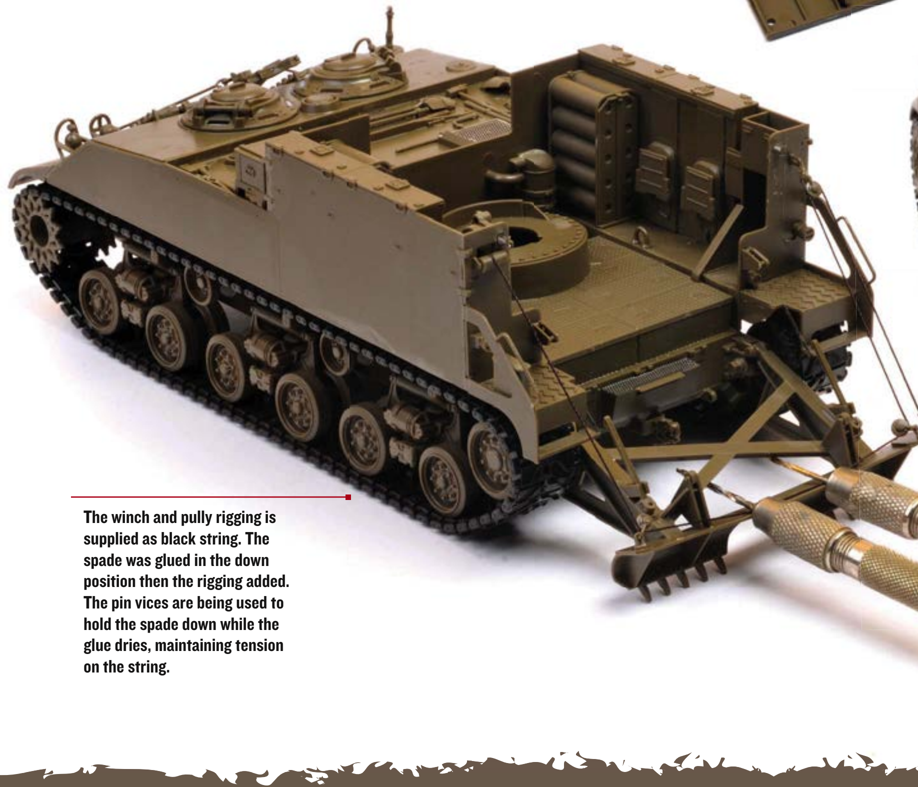
Here the spade is stowed...



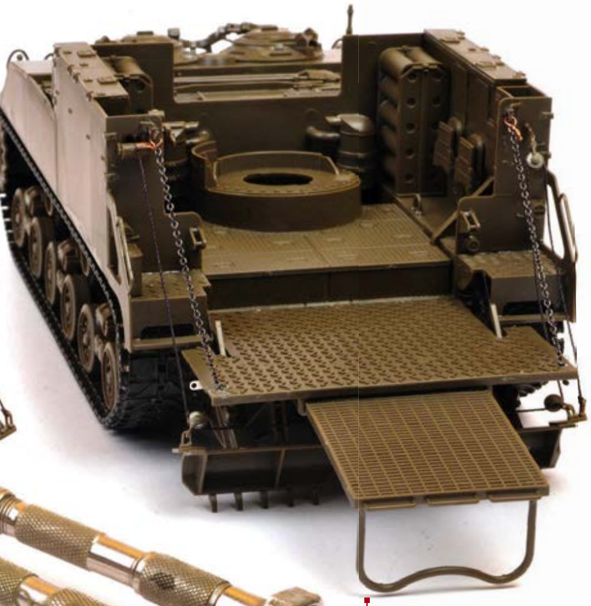
...and here it is dropped.



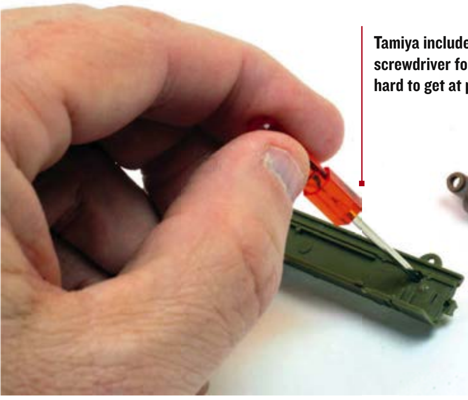
The rear gate sections assembled and ready to be attached.



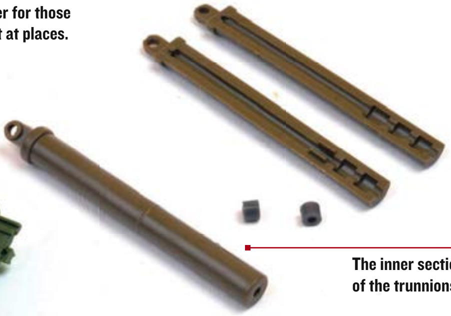
The winch and pully rigging is supplied as black string. The spade was glued in the down position then the rigging added. The pin vices are being used to hold the spade down while the glue dries, maintaining tension on the string.



The main rear gate has been glued to the rear of the vehicle but the rear grille section has just been slid in place without glue.

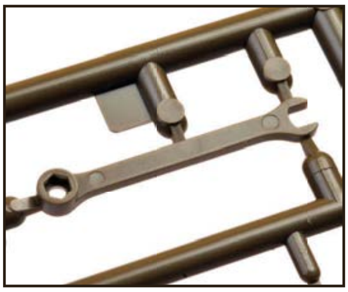


Tamiya includes a teeny screwdriver for those hard to get at places.

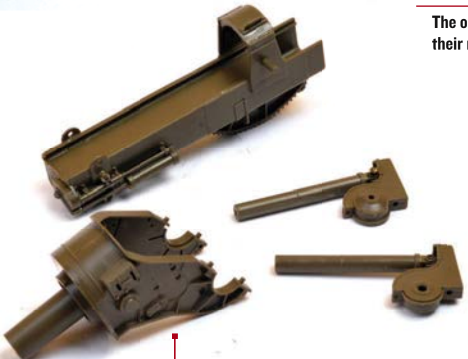


The inner sections of the trunnions.

The gun mount will allow the barrel to elevate and depress due to the use of polythene caps.

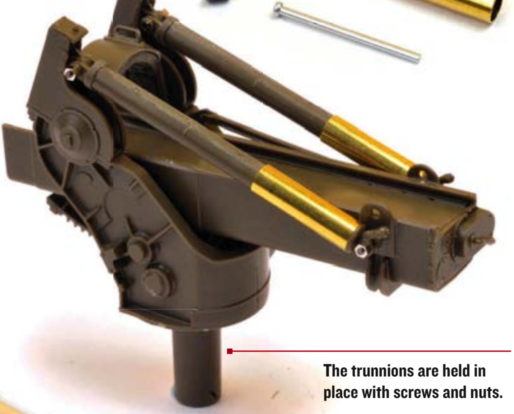


Tamiya thinks of everything, don't they?

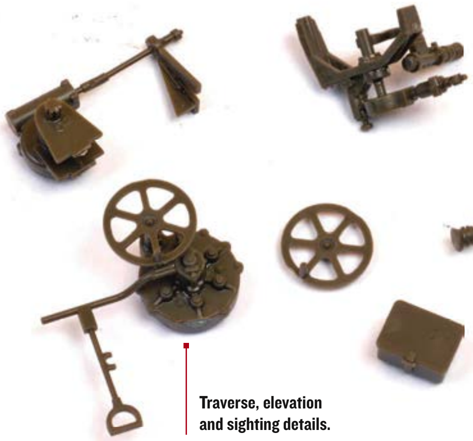


The main section of the gun mount prior to the addition of details, plus the gun rail.

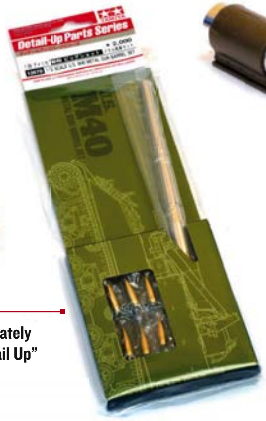
The outer trunnion sections with their metal tubes and steel pins.



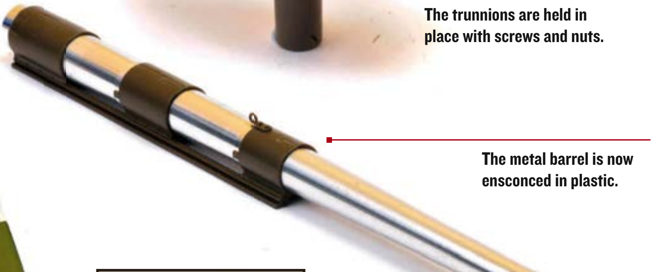
The trunnions are held in place with screws and nuts.



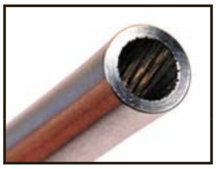
Traverse, elevation and sighting details.



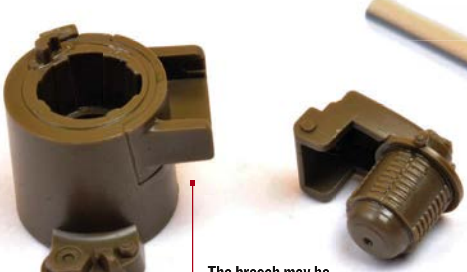
Tamiya's separately available "Detail Up" barrel set.



The metal barrel is now ensconced in plastic.

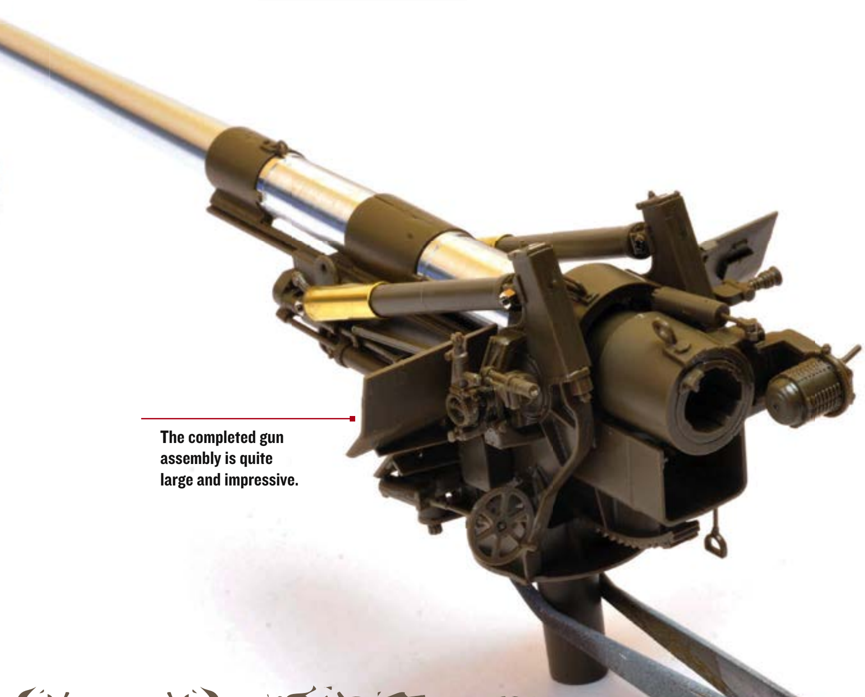


The big turned metal barrel features authentic rifling.



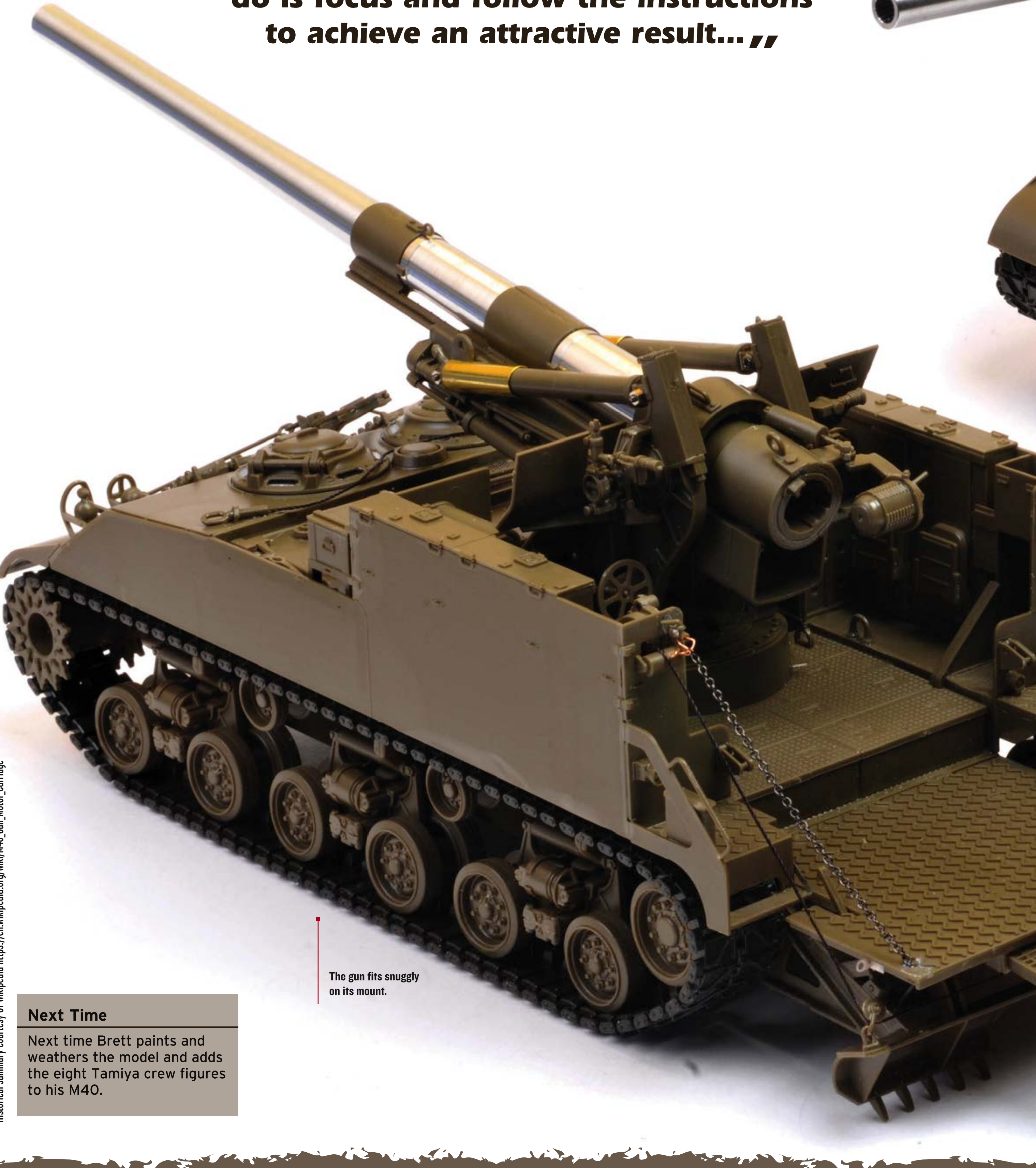
The breech may be posed open or closed.

I posed mine open.



The completed gun assembly is quite large and impressive.

> ***"The kit is typical of this manufacturer in its sensible parts breakdown and excellent fit, so all you really have to do is focus and follow the instructions to achieve an attractive result..."***

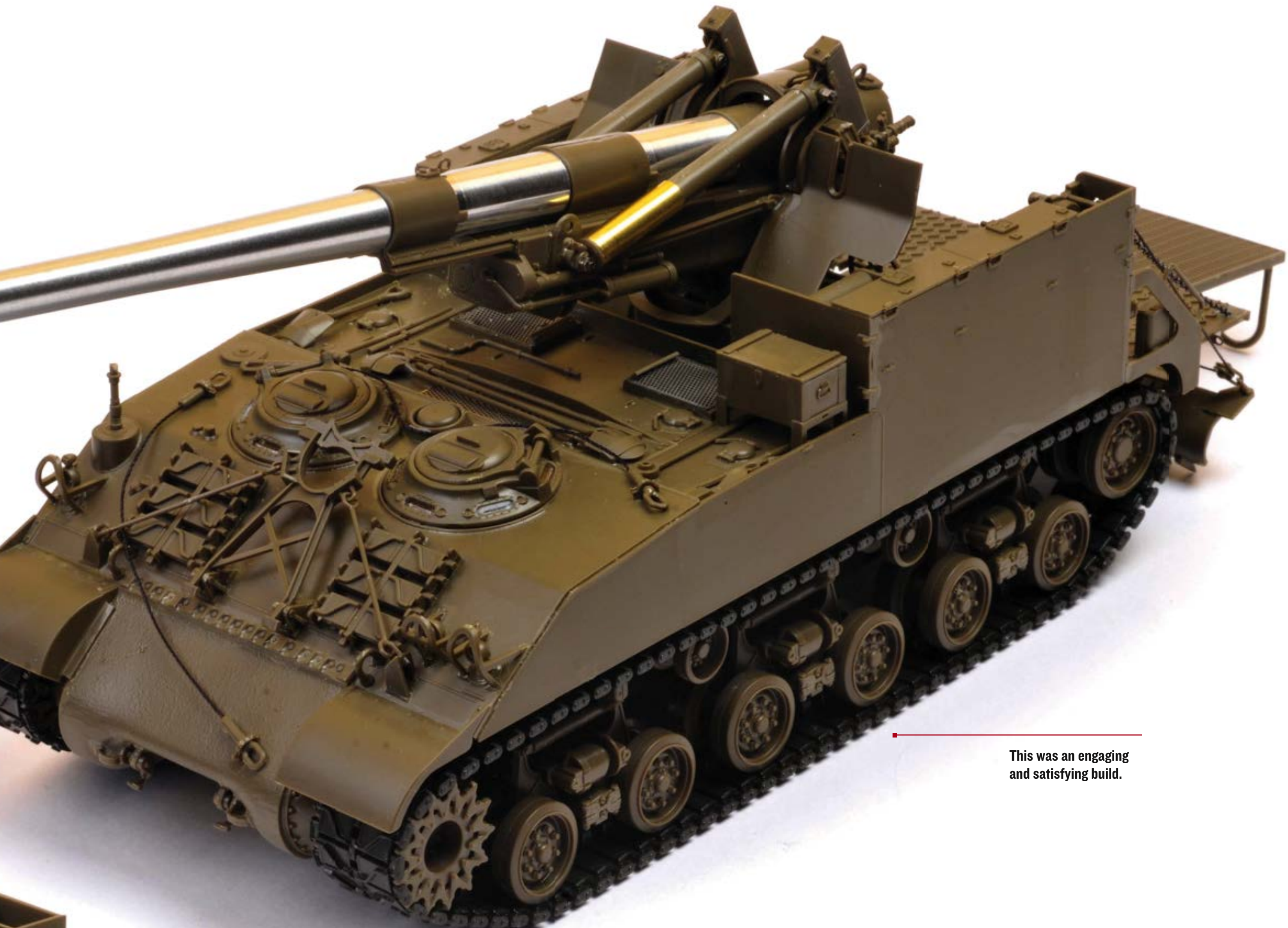


The gun fits snuggly on its mount.

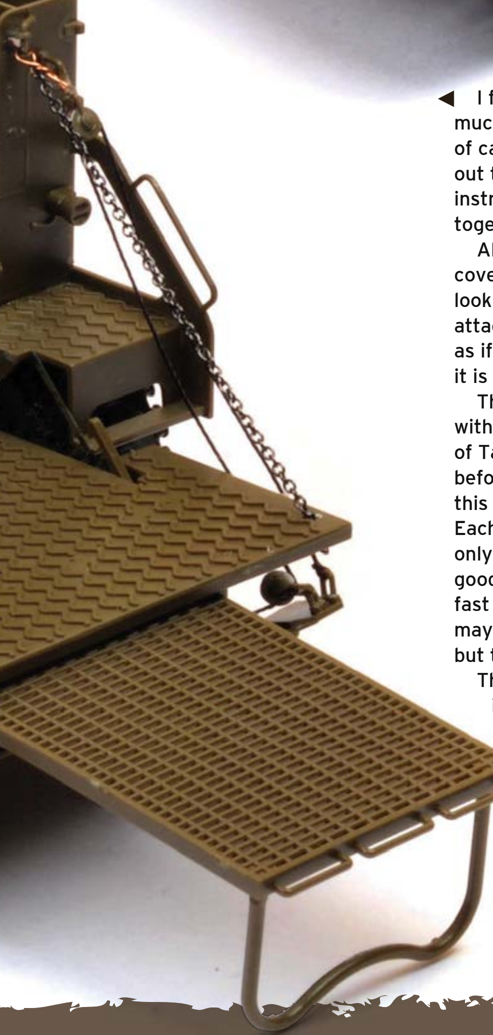
Next Time

Next time Brett paints and weathers the model and adds the eight Tamiya crew figures to his M40.

* Historical summary courtesy of Wikipedia https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/M40_Gun_Motor_Carriage



This was an engaging and satisfying build.



◀ I followed the instructions pretty much to the letter. My only word of caution is to remember to drill out the holes as indicated in the instructions before gluing pieces together.

Also note that the transmission cover assembly sits at a unnatural-looking downward angle when attached to the lower hull. It looks as if it is drooping but never fear – it is supposed to look like that!

The running gear is a joy to work with. I've built two of these sets of Tamiya HVSS suspension units before and I am just as impressed this time as I was with the others. Each bogie truck is made up from only eight pieces, but detail is very good. The only trade-off for the fast assembly is that the wheels may only be posed on flat ground, but that doesn't worry me.

The drive sprockets and the idler wheels are all fitted using polythene caps, which in turn makes fitting the flexible tracks very easy – simply loop the track around the drive sprocket then loop the other side around the idler wheel and press it onto its axle. The full length flexible tracks may be glued with regular plastic cement. I used Revell Contacta on mine, let them set for a few hours and all was well.

MOVING ON

The forward upper hull is peppered with lights, tie-downs, tools and more. In some ways it looks more like a recovery vehicle than a self-propelled gun. The large nine-piece gun travel lock may be made workable if the instructions are followed and glue is applied sparingly.

The same is the case for the prominent rear spade and the rear gate, although the rigging means that you really have to decide whether these will be fixed up or down. I decided to have mine down so I can display the eight figures as Tamiya intended. The pulleys and lengths of string work together well once again if the instructions are followed carefully and glue applied sparingly.

The interior of the fighting compartment includes six seats that may be folded down or stowed up. Ammunition racks and stowage boxes are also included.

The gun and its mount was the final sub-assembly. Once again, this is a fairly complex piece of equipment but it all fits together well and parts will remain workable due to the selective use of screws, nuts, steel pins and polythene caps. ■

Modelspec

Tamiya 1:35 U.S. Self-Propelled 155mm Gun M40.
Kit No. 35351

Accessories and Decals:

Tamiya Detail-Up Parts Series Item No. 12670 - 1:35 U.S. M40 Metal Gun Barrel Set

Tools and Materials:

Tamiya Extra Thin Liquid Cement
Revell Contacta Professional Cement
Selley's Supa Glue
Tamiya 10mm Masking Tape
Gator's Grip Acrylic Glue

✓ Excellent fit; high level of detail; useful and clever workable elements; excellent crew figures in appropriate action poses.

✗ Nothing worth mentioning.

Available from

Thanks to Tamiya for the sample www.tamiya.com
Tamiya kits are distributed in the UK by The Hobby Company Limited www.hobbyco.net

Rating ●●●●●●●●●○

THUNDER OVER

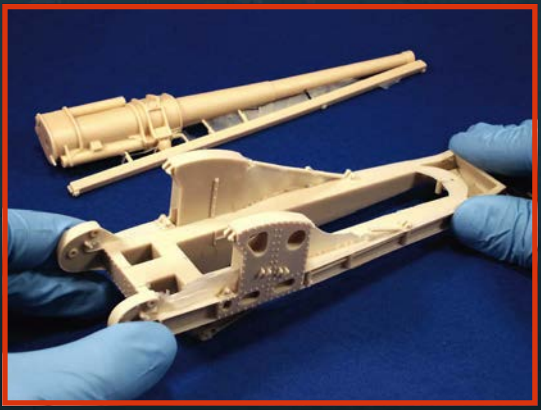
THE TRENCHES

José Brito sets Blitz Models' 1:35 scale Renault EG truck and Canon 145mm Modèle 1916 in a WWI diorama.

Blitz Models Renault and 145 mm cannon kits are presented in regular cardboard boxes and with a simple picture of the finished models as art-box. Inside the box we are presented with resin parts and clear and concise instructions. Sadly, the kits do not provide decals, clear nor photo-etched metal parts.

In the Box

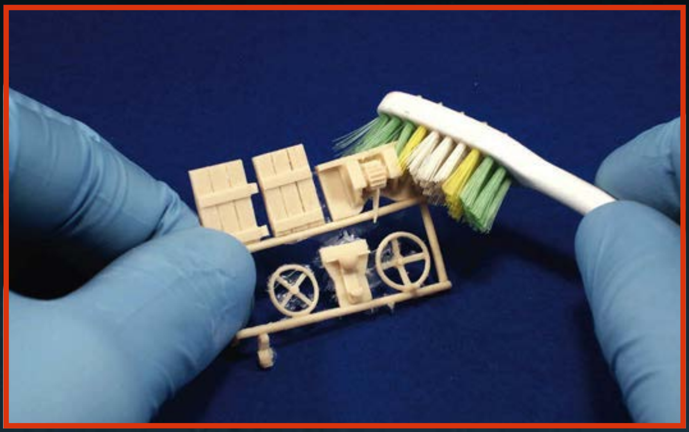
The instructions are clear and concise. Even so, some attention and careful reading will be necessary. References on this hardware is rare, so some extra attention and planning will be a good idea.



The major parts are cast in a good quality resin. Even so, the casting is far from being flawless and lots of cleaning will be necessary.

The smaller parts are packed in bags and without any kind of reference or sequence number.

Construction



The parts, without any exception, needed a thorough cleaning process and some care had to be taken with the smaller and more fragile parts. A soft toothbrush is a good tool for this task. Soon, we can start cutting the parts and plan the construction.

Cleaning the parts demanded some attention and this was a very time consuming process. All the parts have a large amount of flash to clean.

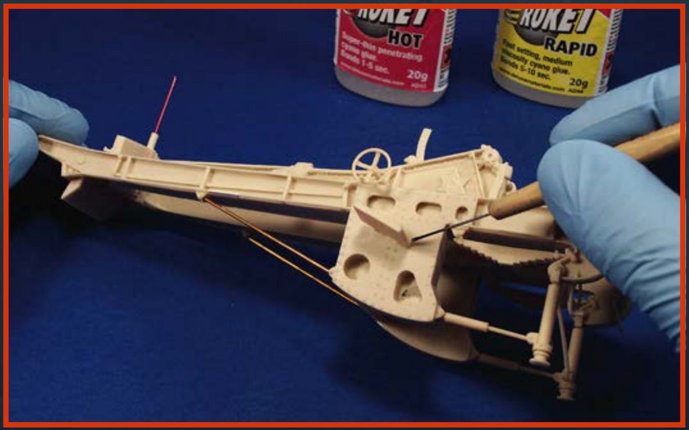
Due the bad packaging, some of the most fragile parts are broken and will need repair. This can be a tricky process and some care and extra patience will be need. Plastic card was widely used for this task. These repairs will be invisible under paint.

PERFECT PLASTIC Putty
Fills fine gaps. Creates invisible seams.

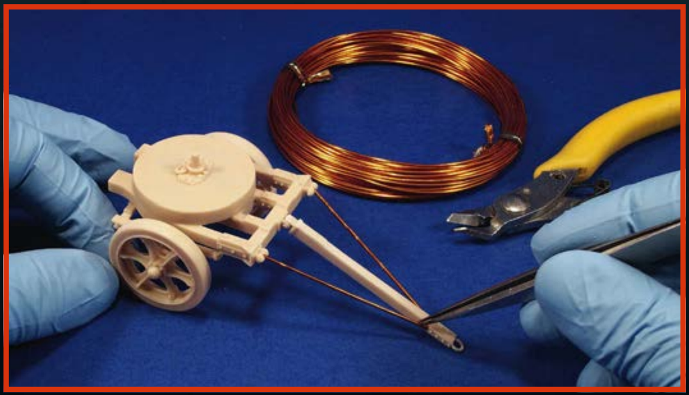
The parts also have a number of empty air bubbles. The holes were filled using Deluxe Materials Perfect Plastic Putty. This is water-based putty and besides the fast drying time, it can be thinned in water. Once completely dry, it is rock hard and may be carved or sanded.

JOEFIX
STUDIO'S
402

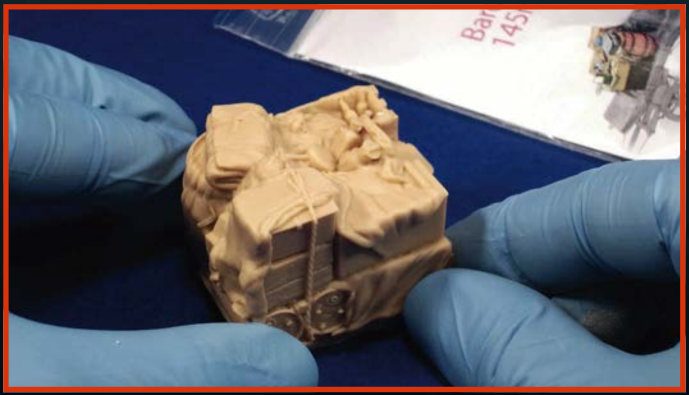
Sanding sticks or sandpaper may be used to smooth the Deluxe Materials Perfect Plastic Putty. Filling all those holes is a very time consuming and I spent more than a week in this process. At a certain point this seemed like a never-ending process.



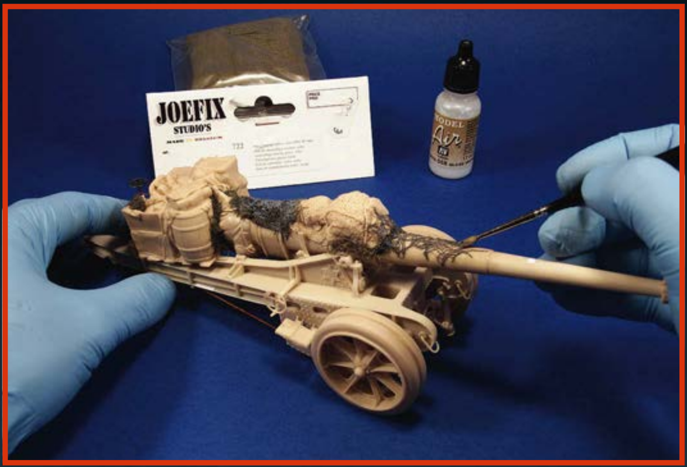
Once the parts were cleaned and the air bubbles filled and parts repaired, the construction can begin and was very straightforward. As usual, Deluxe Materials Rocket Hot and Rocket Rapid glue solutions were used. Rocket Hot is ideal to use in the capillarity mode and being ultra-thin glue, it reaches the most hidden spots.



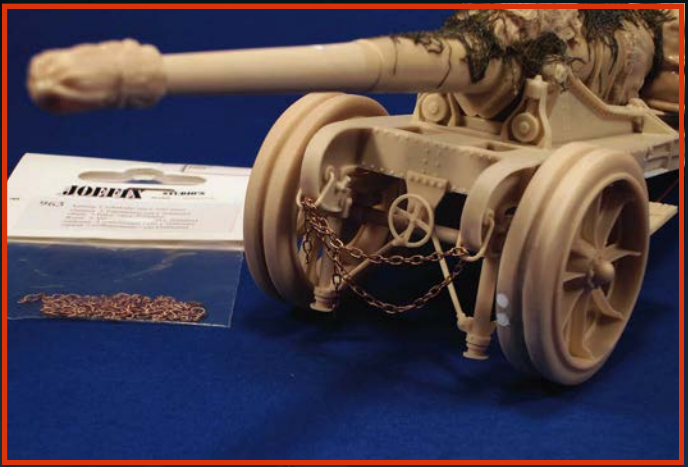
Some scratch work was made in order to replace some of the damaged parts and to improve some others.



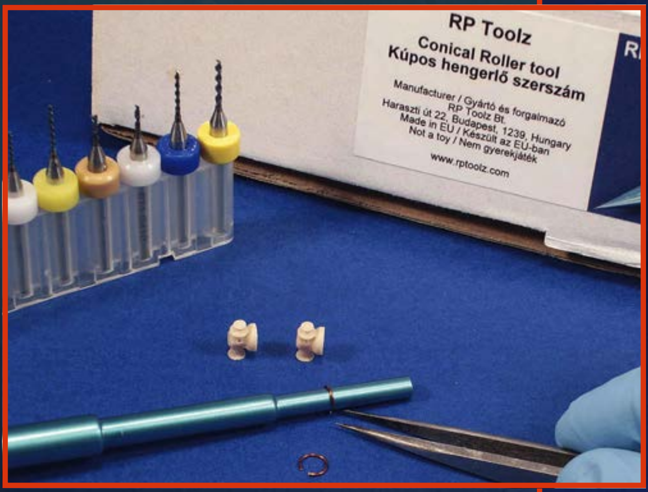
Blitz also provides a lovely separate stowage set for the Canon 145mm. This will add an extra touch of interest to our model and improve the final look. The set is composed of several resin parts, the major one being a big piece composed of barrels, boxes, ropes, canvas. Some more scratch work was done in order to replace some of the damaged or broken parts.


JOEFIX
STUDIO'S
Model Air

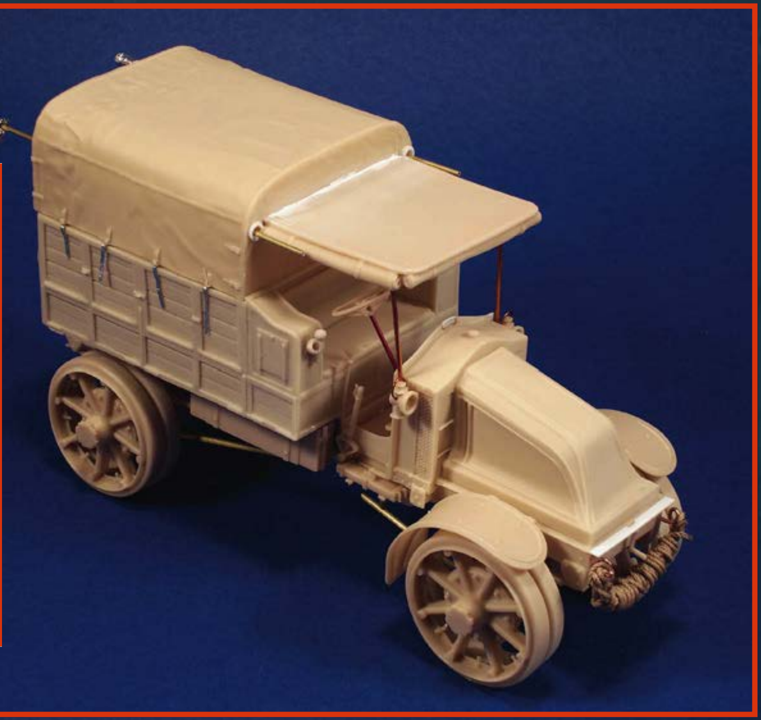
The camouflage net from Joefix was used in order to "blend" the resin net to the model and add an extra worn touch. Gloss varnish from Vallejo Acrylics Model Air range was used to glue the Joefix camouflage net in the desired spots. The varnish is ultra-thin and invisible once dry.


JOEFIX
STUDIO'S

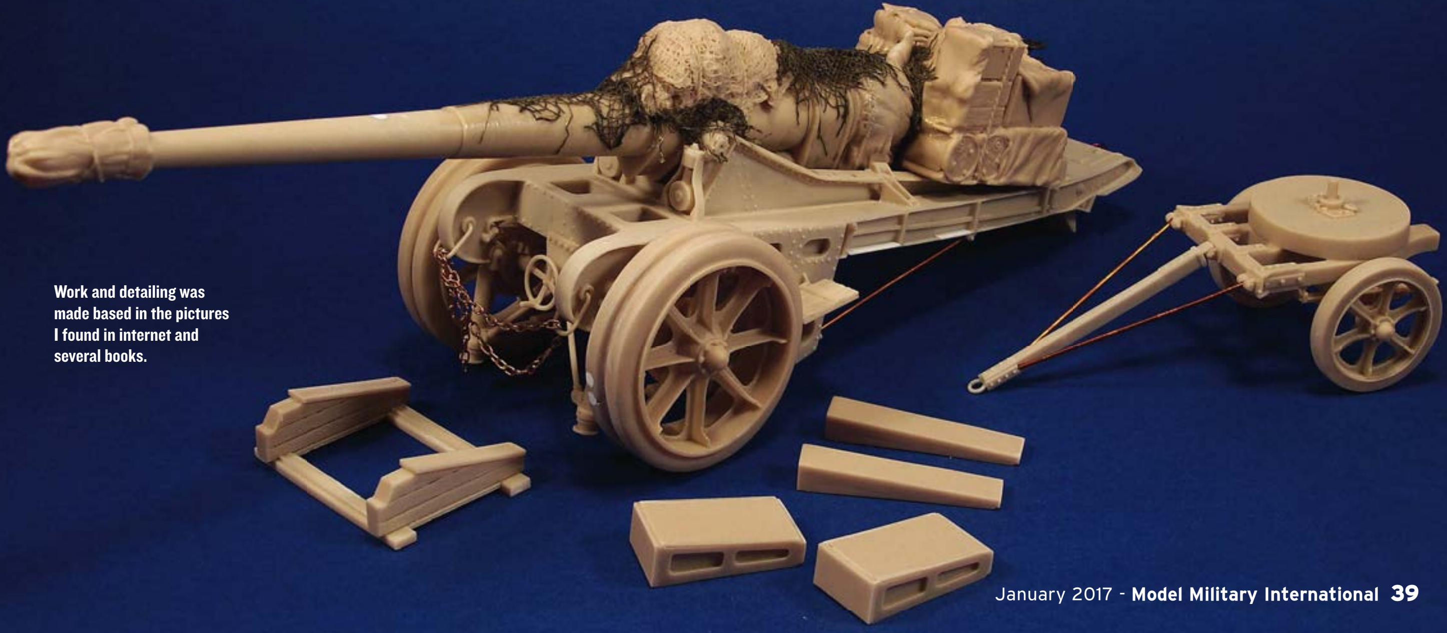
A small metal chain from Joefix brand was also used in order to add visual interest and accuracy to our model. Small details like this can really make the difference.


RP Toolz
Conical Roller tool
Kúpos hengerlő szerszám
Manufacturer / Gyártó és forgalmazó
RP Toolz Bt.
Haraszti út 22, Budapest, 1239, Hungary
Made in EU / Készült az EU-ban
Not a toy / Nem gyerekjáték
www.rptoolz.com

Small metal parts were scratch built and added to the model. Using specific tools, like the ones from RP Toolz, we can make all the difference and turn a boring chore into a very pleasant one. As usual, Deluxe Materials Rocket Hot Glue was used in the capillarity mode.

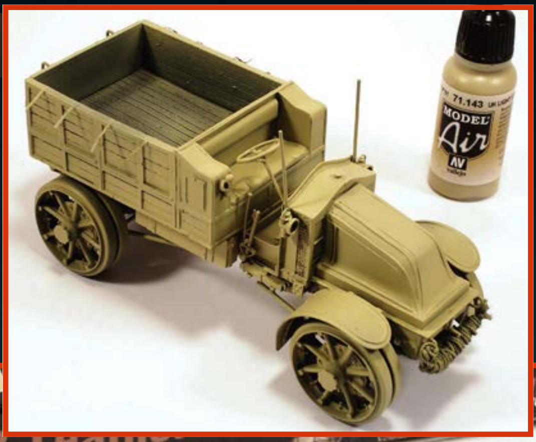


Soon the Renault EG and Canon 145 are fully assembled and ready for the painting. Sadly there are not many references about those vehicles and hardware.

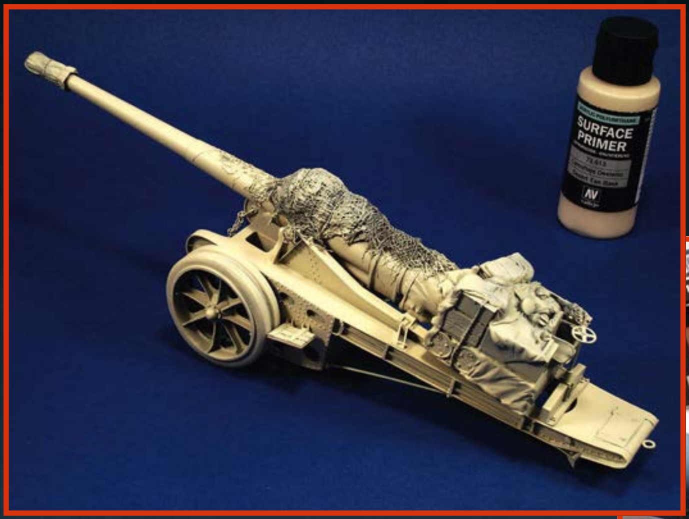


Work and detailing was made based in the pictures I found in internet and several books.

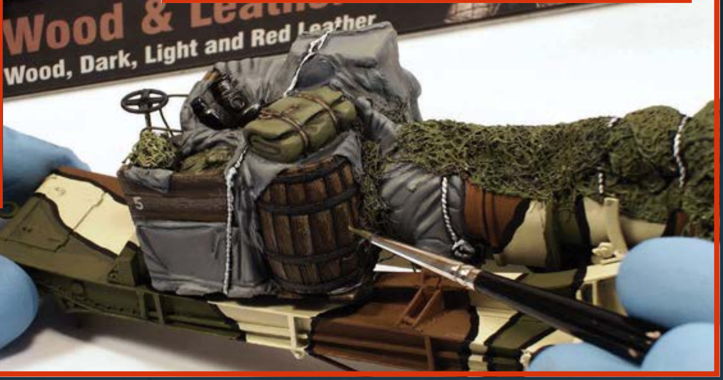
Painting and Weathering



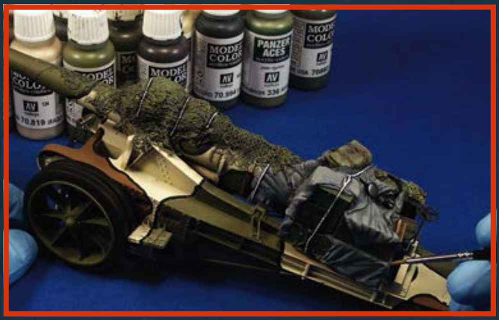
Once the desert tan base was dry, the models were airbrushed in Vallejo Model Air 71143 UK Light Stone N.º 61. The trolley was primed in Vallejo 73609 Russian Green 4BO.



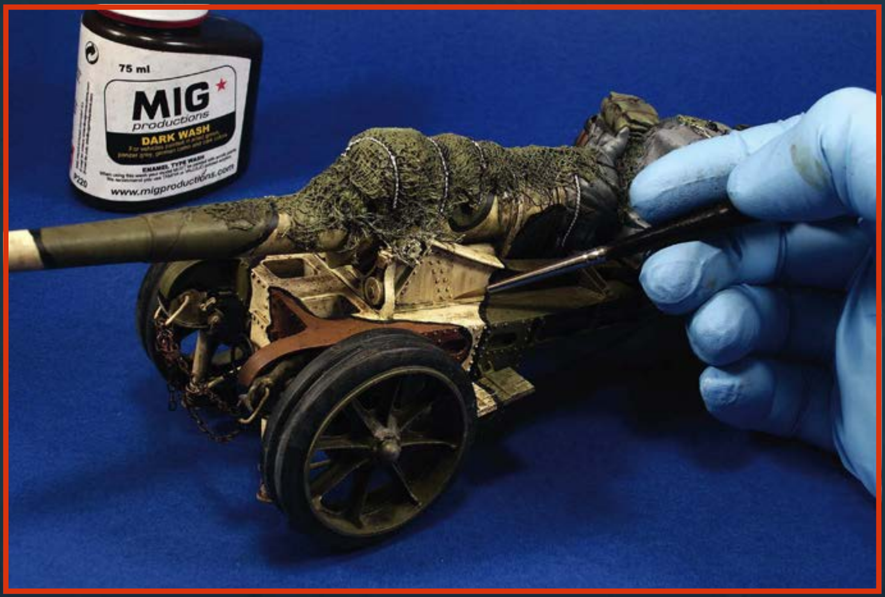
The models were primed in in Vallejo 73602 Black Primer. Once the black primer well dry, the models were primed in Vallejo 73613 Desert Tan Base. Once again applied in heavily thinned layers.

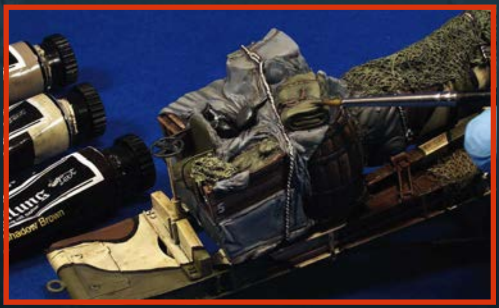


Vallejo Wood and Leather set was used to paint the stowage set. A careful painting is necessary and the final look will definitely worth the effort.



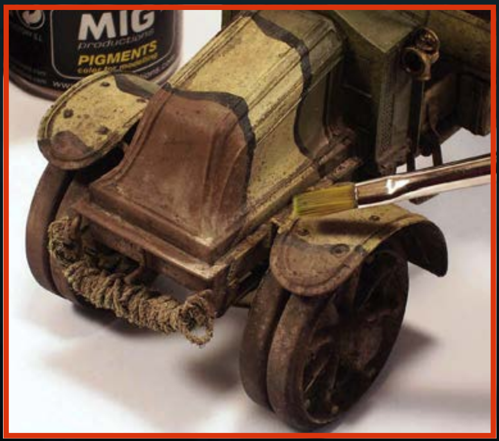
The camouflages were brush painted in Vallejo Model Color acrylics and in consecutive and well thinned layers, in order to keep the surface detail. The painting was based in period pictures. Soon, the models are ready for the weathering process. Before the weathering and finishing, the models only look as super toys, but very soon this is about to change.





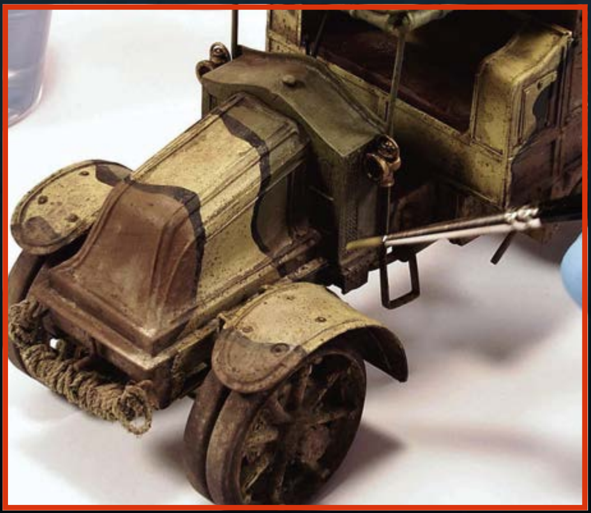
Several oil colours from MIG Productions range were used in order to achieve a more realistic colour variation. The colours must be applied very well thinned in MIG Productions Odourless Turpentine and with the help of a round medium size brush or a flat one.

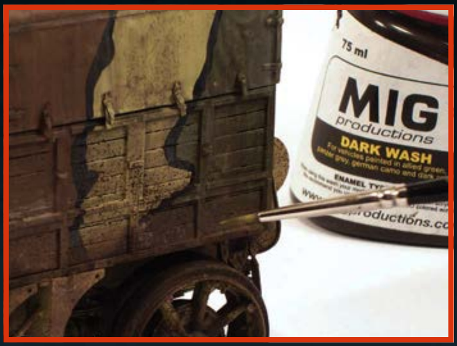
MIG Production wash colours were also widely used and combined for a more accurate look. They can be applied directly from the jar or thinned in MIG Productions Thinner for Washes, according to the consistency desired.



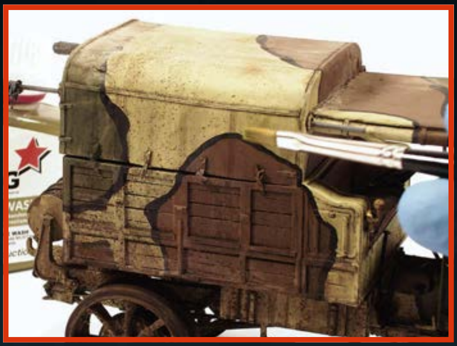
The dusty look was achieved in MIG Productions Pigments. Several colours must be used in order to get a more realistic look. In the meantime we must have some care. The colours must be accurate and in the right spots. Also, we must not overdo this process; otherwise our model will look inaccurate and unrealistic.

The pigments were fixed in place with the help of MIG Productions Pigment Fixer and MIG Productions Thinner for Washes. All we have to do is apply, by brush, several drops over the pigments and let to dry untouchable. During this process the model will turn very dark and it seems that the pigments disappear, but once the fixer and thinner evaporates, the pigments will appear again and they will look very natural and realistic.

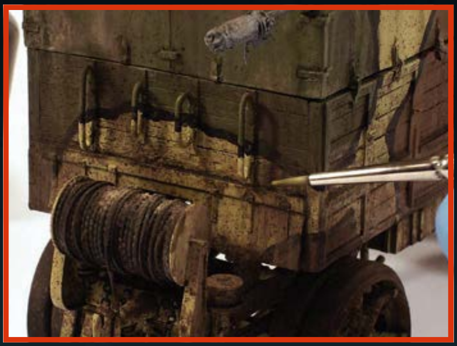




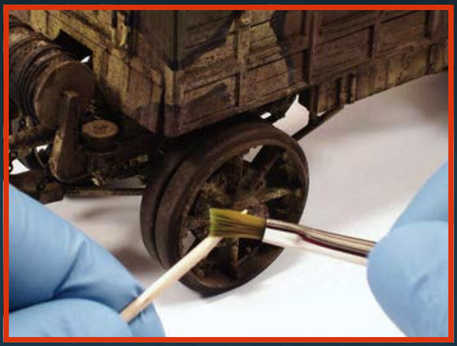
MIG Productions Dark Wash was applied in the most recessed parts with the help of a fine brush.



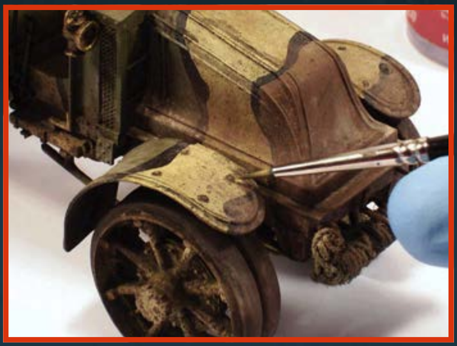
MIG Productions Sand Wash and Decay Wash were applied in the canvas cover and in order to represent the rain streaks and the exposure to the elements. They can be thinned in MIG Productions Thinner for washes for different consistency and effects.



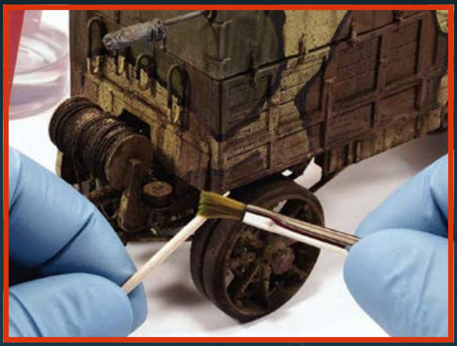
MIG Productions Wood Ageing Solution Wash was also applied in the wood parts and is a great wash to present the wood colour variations.



MIG Productions Dark Wash, brown pigments and MIG Productions Thinner for Washes were mixed and with the help of a brush and a tooth pick. Thousands of splashes were applied around the wheels and lower parts. This is a simple process with great results.

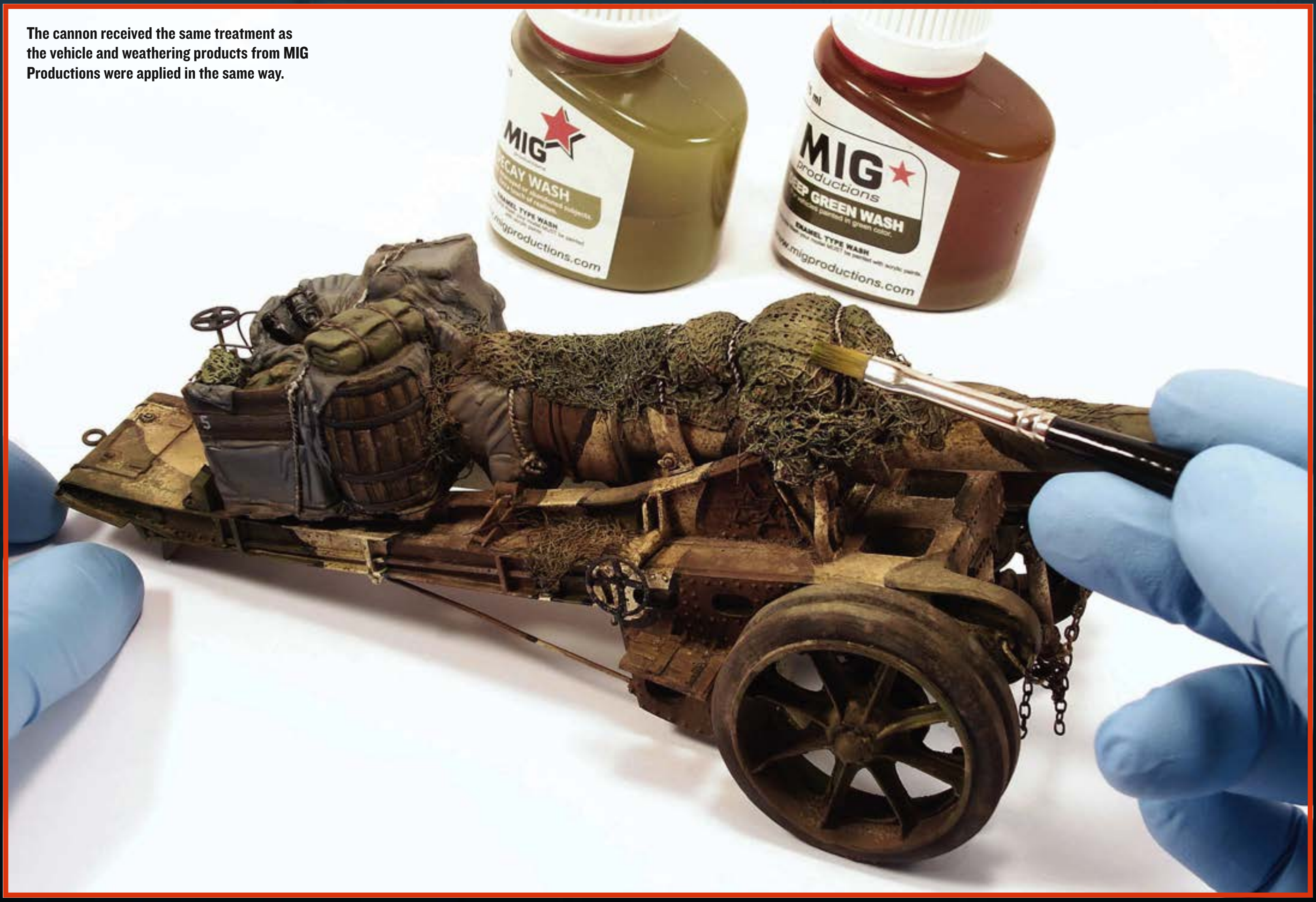


With all the splashes done, some minor parts received a small amount of MIG Productions Dark Wash very well thinned in MIG Productions Thinner for Washes.



This process will help to blend all the weathering work around the recessed and raised parts.

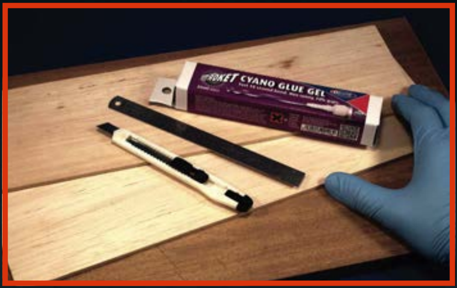
> **"The major parts are cast in a good quality resin. Even so, the casting is far from being flawless and lots of cleaning will be necessary..."**



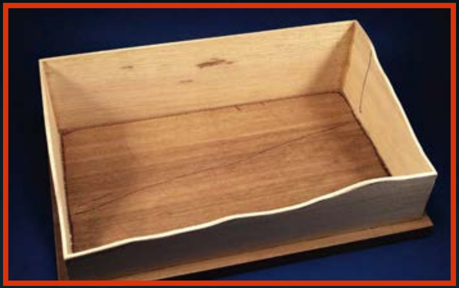
The cannon received the same treatment as the vehicle and weathering products from MIG Productions were applied in the same way.

Base and Diorama

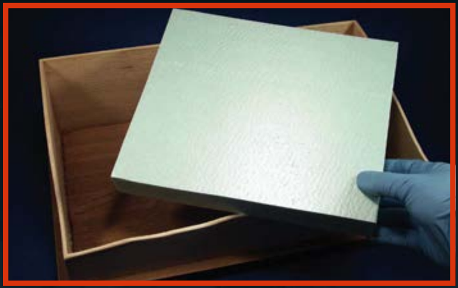
I'm a diorama modeller and this project was no exception. Like most of my diorama projects I use a wood base and sidewalls in balsa wood to form an open top box.



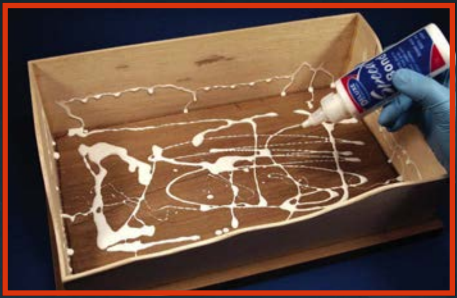
The sidewalls are glued in place with the help of Deluxe Materials Cyano Glue Gel. As the name suggests, this is high viscosity glue and ideal for this kind of work. The bond is really good and the drying time allows subtle corrections.



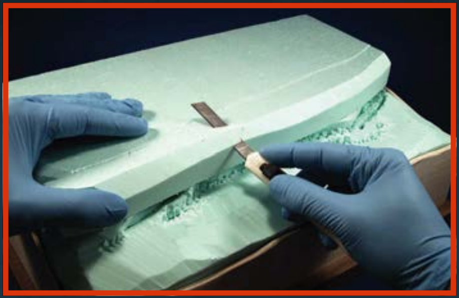
With the side balsa wood walls in place, we can cut them into the desired shape. This shape will represent the ground relief and will add interest to the scene. Balsa wood, besides being lightweight is easy to cut and shape.



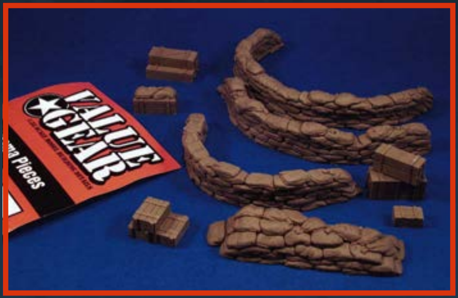
The interior is filled in isolation foam. This product is extremely lightweight, cheap, easy to find, easy to work with and resistant. so it is ideal for the task.



Deluxe Materials Speedy Bond is applied inside the box, then the isolation foam, previously cut into the desired shape, is glued into place.

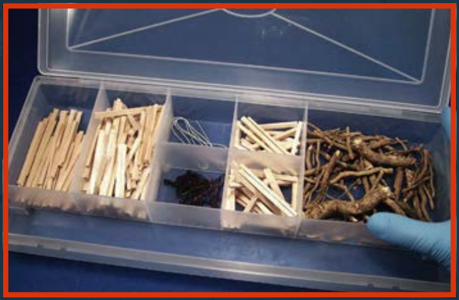


While the Deluxe Materials Speedy Bond glue is drying, we can start cutting and shaping the soil. For that all we need is a medium size x-acto.

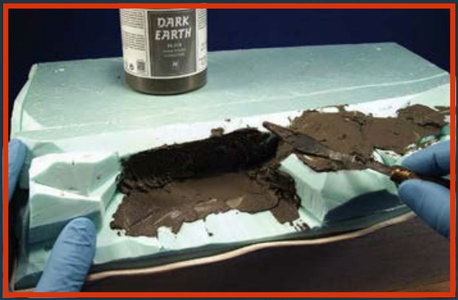


Value Gear items will be used in this project. The resin casting is really nice and every set is a great value for money. Their sets always have lots of solutions and a single set is enough for 3 or 4 dioramas.

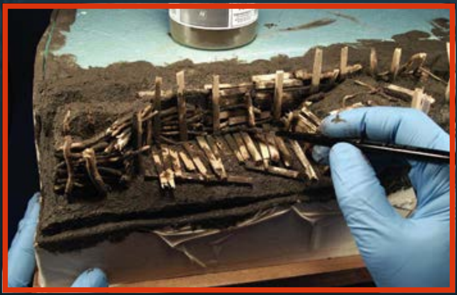
Several Internet, book and magazine references were used to study the trenches in World War One. In pictures from that period we can see how life was in those places and we can also pick details and ideas for our project.



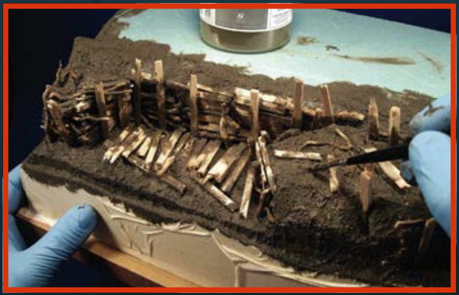
A spare plastic box is filled with stuff we will use in our diorama. Like that we can have all the materials we will need close at hand. This will speed up the diorama construction.



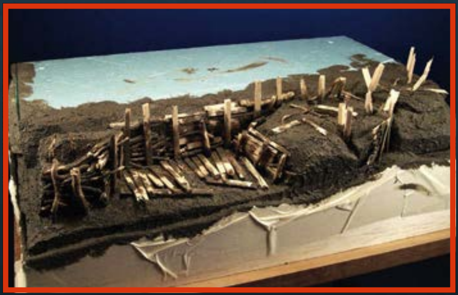
With the help of a spatula, Vallejo Dark Earth Acrylic Paste 26218 was applied all over the isolation foam. Being an acrylic paste, it can be thinned in water to reach all spots and change the consistency. The colour and fine texture is match one.



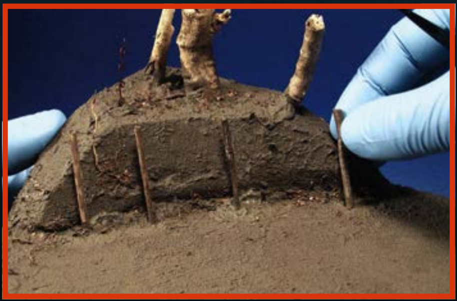
While the Vallejo acrylic past is still wet, several balsa wood parts, dried roots and other elements are pressed into the paste. Once the paste was completely dry, it fixes all the elements in place. Once the paste dries, it becomes matt.



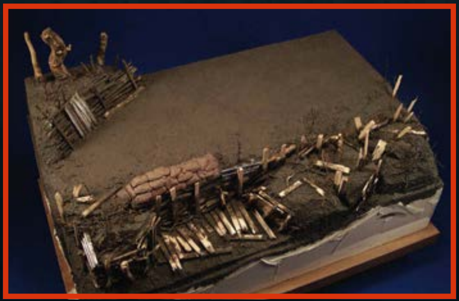
Value Gear items are also pressed into the fresh paste and let to dry. They can be blended with a coat of Vallejo paste well thinned in water.



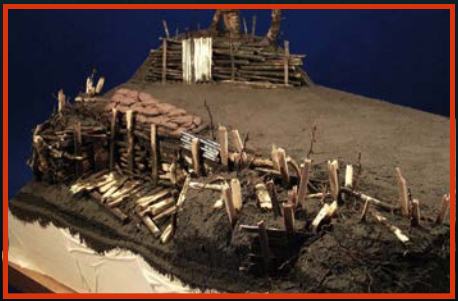
Another section is made in the opposite corner. Like the front trench, this one is made in dry roots and assembled like a real trench.



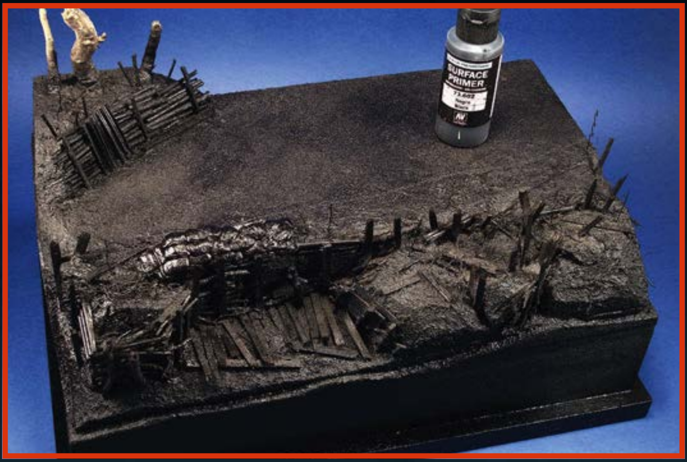
At this moment we may also apply a barbed wire metal spike, dry leaves, a cover made in lead foil and dry roots to represent the dead trees. All blended into the base with the help of more Vallejo paste thinned in water.

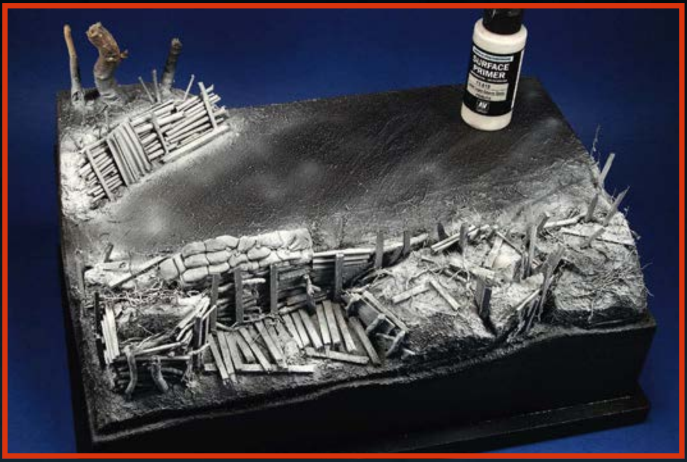


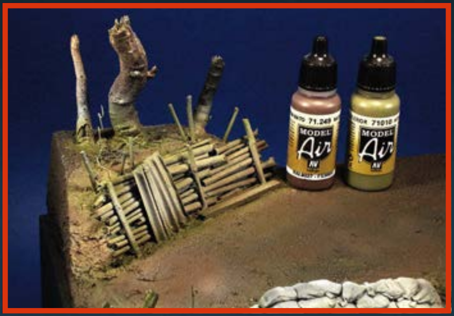
The base done and ready for the painting process. The combination of several materials like balsa wood, dry roots, lead foil, metal spikes, sand bags... allows to create a very convincing WWI scenario.

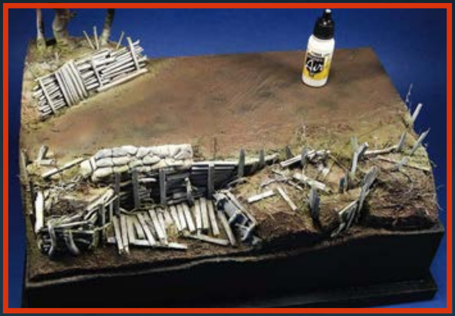


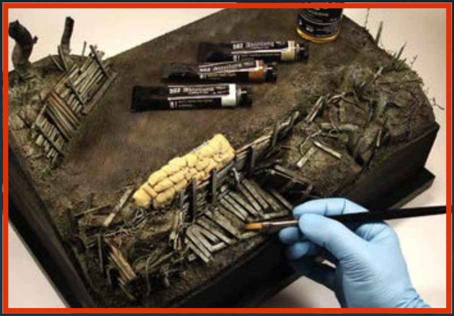
The base was planned in several stages and the display of the elements, over invisible diagonal lines, will add interest to the composition. The main elements like the vehicle, canon and figures will be placed in the middle stage for a better composition balance.

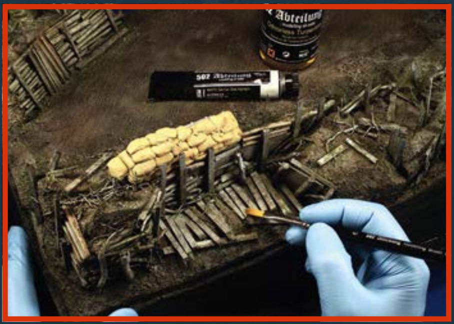

The entire base received several coats of well thinned Vallejo Black 73602 Surface Primer. Applied in several layers and in order to reach all the tiny spots and keep the surface detail and textures.

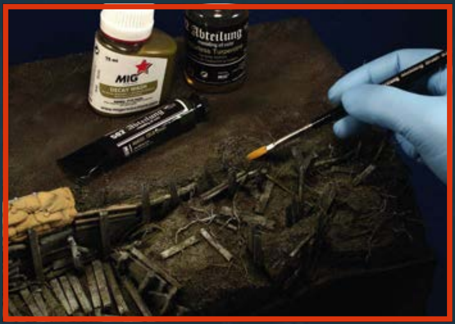

Once the black surface primer was dry, the more exposed parts of the base received a coat of Vallejo USN Light Ghost Grey 73615 Primer. As usual, applied in heavily thinned layers.

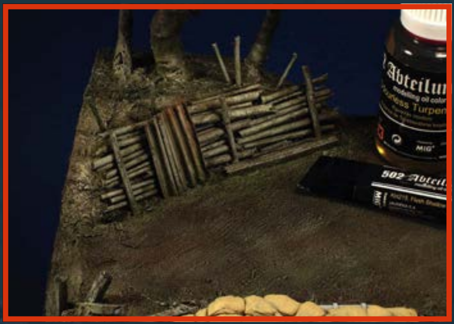

Several spots were airbrushed in Vallejo Model Air 71249 NATO Brown and 71010 Interior Green. This adds the colour variation and decay look to our scene.

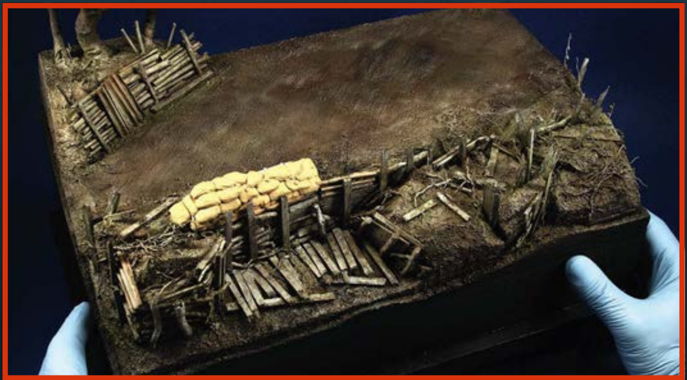

Several thinned coats of Vallejo Model Air 71050 Light Grey were applied over the wood parts and sand bags.

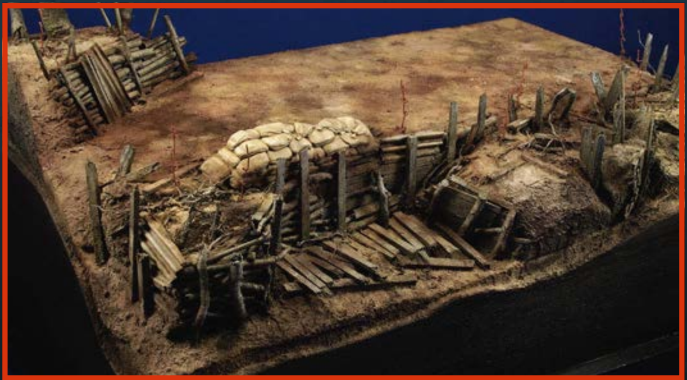

Several MIG Productions oil colours, thinned in MIG Productions Odourless Turpentine were brushed around the base. All those colours and different thinner rates will add a big colour variation to our scene.

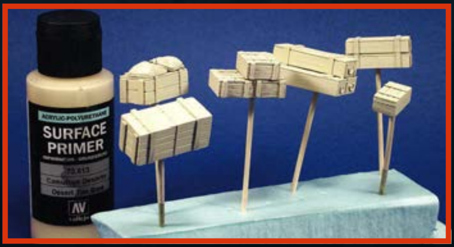

MIG Productions German Grey Highlight oil colour, thinned in MIG Productions Odourless turpentine was applied in the wood parts.

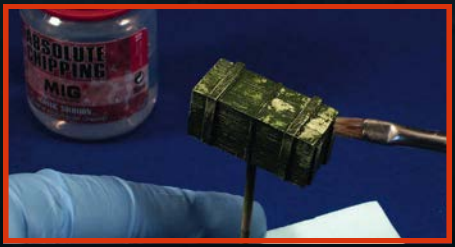

At the same time MIG Productions Olive Green oil colour and MIG Productions Decay Wash thinned in MIG Productions Odourless Turpentine was applied around the wood parts and several ground spots.

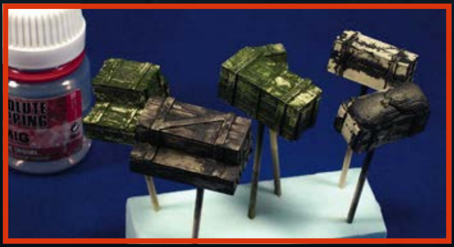

MIG Productions Flesh Shadow oil colour, thinned in MIG Productions Odourless Turpentine was also applied in the metal parts and in order to achieve a decay and rusty look. With all the oils and washes applied and well dry, the base is ready for the pigments and final touches.


Several MIG Productions pigment colours were applied in the base. The pigments were applied directly from the jar and randomly mixed. The colour variation is very important and is the best way to achieve a natural and convincing look.


Once all the pigments in place, all we have to do is apply MIG Productions Pigment Fixer by the capillarity mode and let to dry. Once the Pigment Fixer evaporates, the pigments will look very natural and realistic.


More items from Value Gear will be used and in this case, wooden boxes were airbrushed in Vallejo Desert Tan Base 73613 Surface Primer.


Once the primer was dry, the items received a coat of hairspray and then were airbrushed in the final colour.


Once completely dry, MIG Productions Absolute Chipping was used to peel the final paint coat and let visible the first coat. This is a very simple and also very effective process. The final look is very interesting and accurate.

Figures

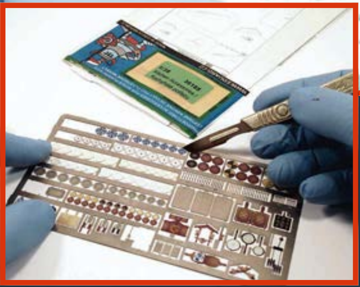
The figures came from the French manufacturer U-Models. The resin is flawless and the poses very natural. The figures will only need some minor cleaning and the assembling is very straightforward.

ACRYLIC-POLYURETHANE
SURFACE PRIMER
IMPRIMACION · GRUNDIERUNG
73.613
Camuflaje Desierto
Desert Tan Base
AV
vallejo

The figures were airbrushed in Vallejo Desert Tan Base 73613 Surface Primer. Applied in well-thinned consecutive layers.

This was the first time I used acrylics to paint the flesh areas. Until today I only used oil colours, but this time I decided for the acrylics. For that I used the Vallejo set "Face Painting Set". The set provides 8 x 17ml bottles and have the basic colours to paint face and overall flesh areas.

step by step
cont.: 8x17 ml



Eduard's 1:35 scale photo-etched Kitchen Accessories, Item No. 36185, were used and will contribute to represent the daily life in the trenches. Small items like this add spots of interest to the final scene and are very important to tell a story.

For the cloths and details, I also used Vallejo acrylics from their Model Color range. MIG Productions oil and wash colours were applied in the figures in order to represent the dirt and weathering caused by the life in the trenches.

OLUTION
www.migp

Once the MIG Productions oil and wash colours well dry, pigments from the same brand were applied in order to increase the worn and dirt look.

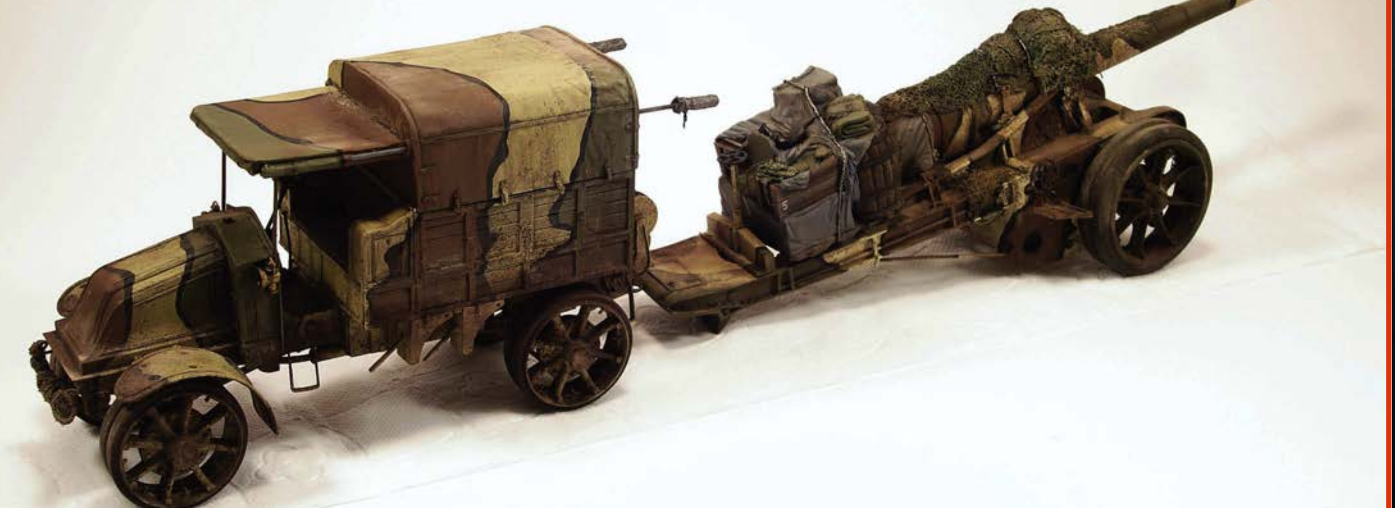
Conclusion

This was a very enjoyable project. It was my first WWI work ever and I'm certain that it will not be the last.

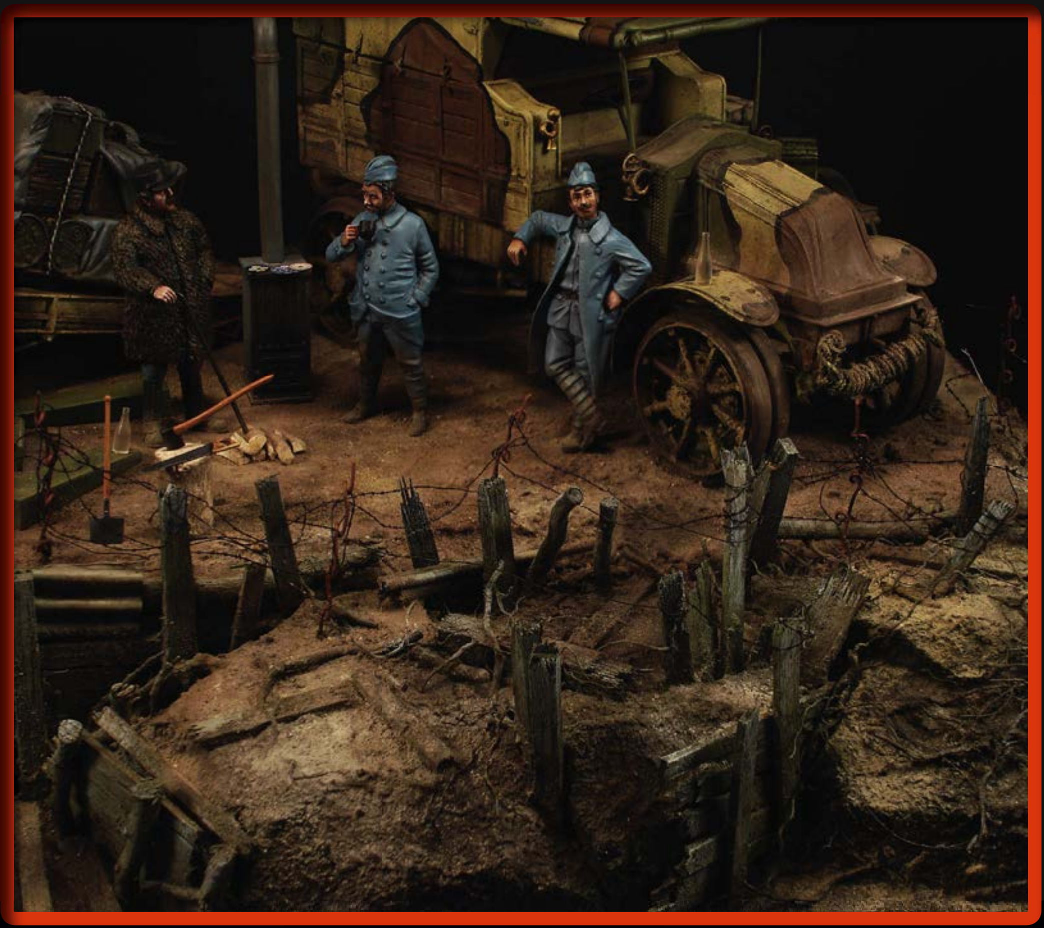
While I was doing the research for this, I developed a serious interest in the history of this conflict such as all the geopolitical issues that drove mankind into this terrible world conflict.

World War One was the first truly global conflict and, sadly, it seems that it does receive the right attention by the scale modelling manufacturers.

Thanks to Blitz Models and U-Models for spending their efforts by doing models for this period. ■



The models completed and ready from the base.



Modelspec

Items Used:

- 1:35 Blitz Models, Renault EG - Item 35FS 1048
- 1:35 Blitz Models, 145mm Modèle 1916 - Item 35FS 2015
- 1:35 Blitz Models, Barda pour canon 145mm Modèle 1916 - Item 35 4024
- 1:35 U-Model, Figures - Item UM386
- 1:35 U-Model, Figures - Item UM411
- 1:35 U-Model, Figures - Item UM412
- 1:35 Eduard, Kitchen Accessories Set - Item 36185
- Joefix, Camouflage Net - Item 722
- Joefix, Metal Chain - Item 963
- 1:35 Value Gear, Assorted sets
- 1:35 Royal Model, Coal Stoves, Item 744

Materials and Paints Used:

- Hood glue
- Deluxe Materials glue and special effects solutions
- Heat isolation foam
- Wood base
- Balsa wood
- Injected plastic
- Resin parts
- Plastic card
- Metal parts
- Vallejo primers, acrylics and thinners
- MIG Productions oils, washes, pigments, filters and thinners
- Graphite soft pencil

References

Several internet sites

✓ Unusual subject and plenty of possibilities.

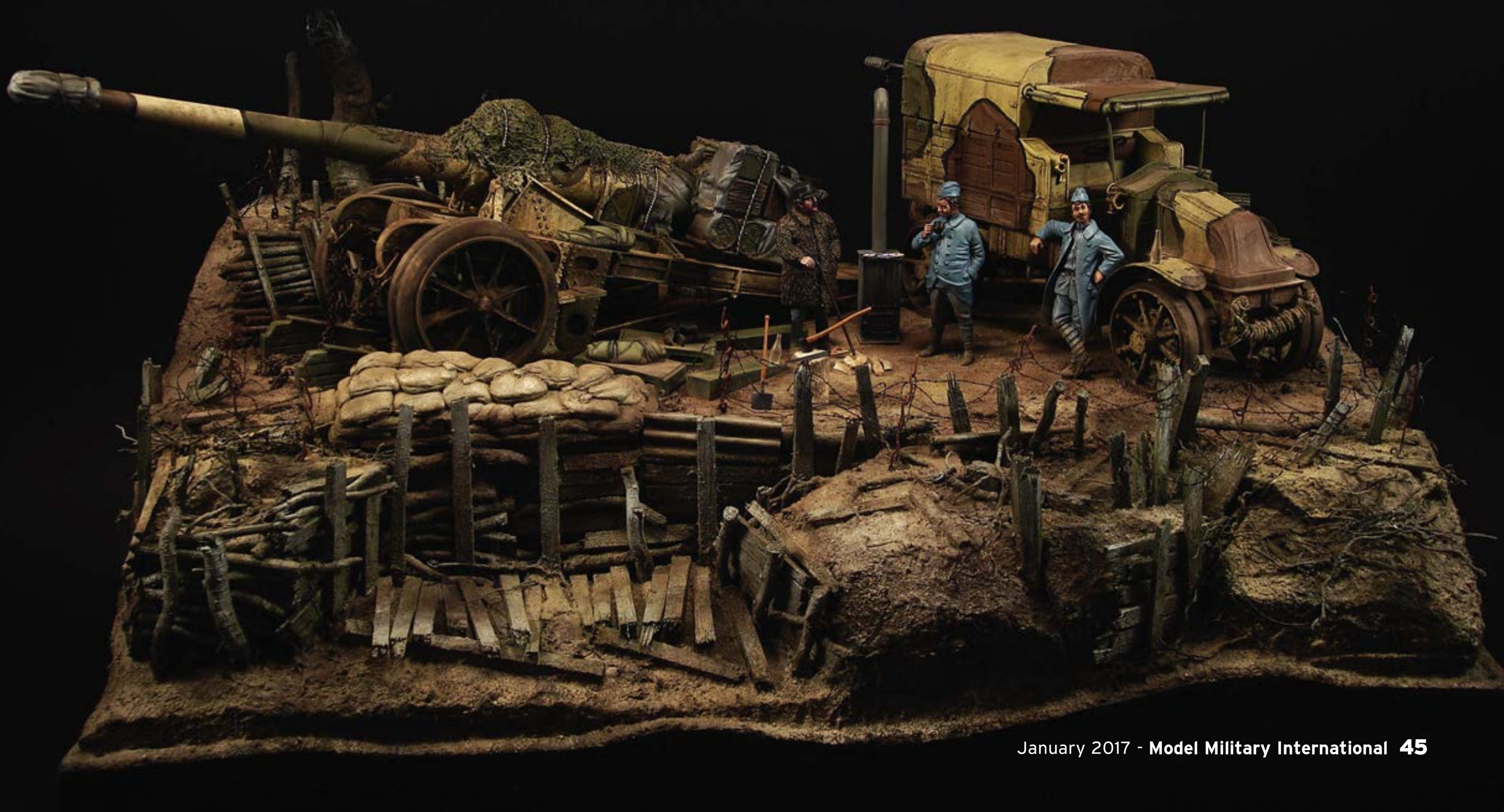
✗ Not for the beginner.

Available from

Specialist hobby shops and online.

Rating ●●●●●●●●○○

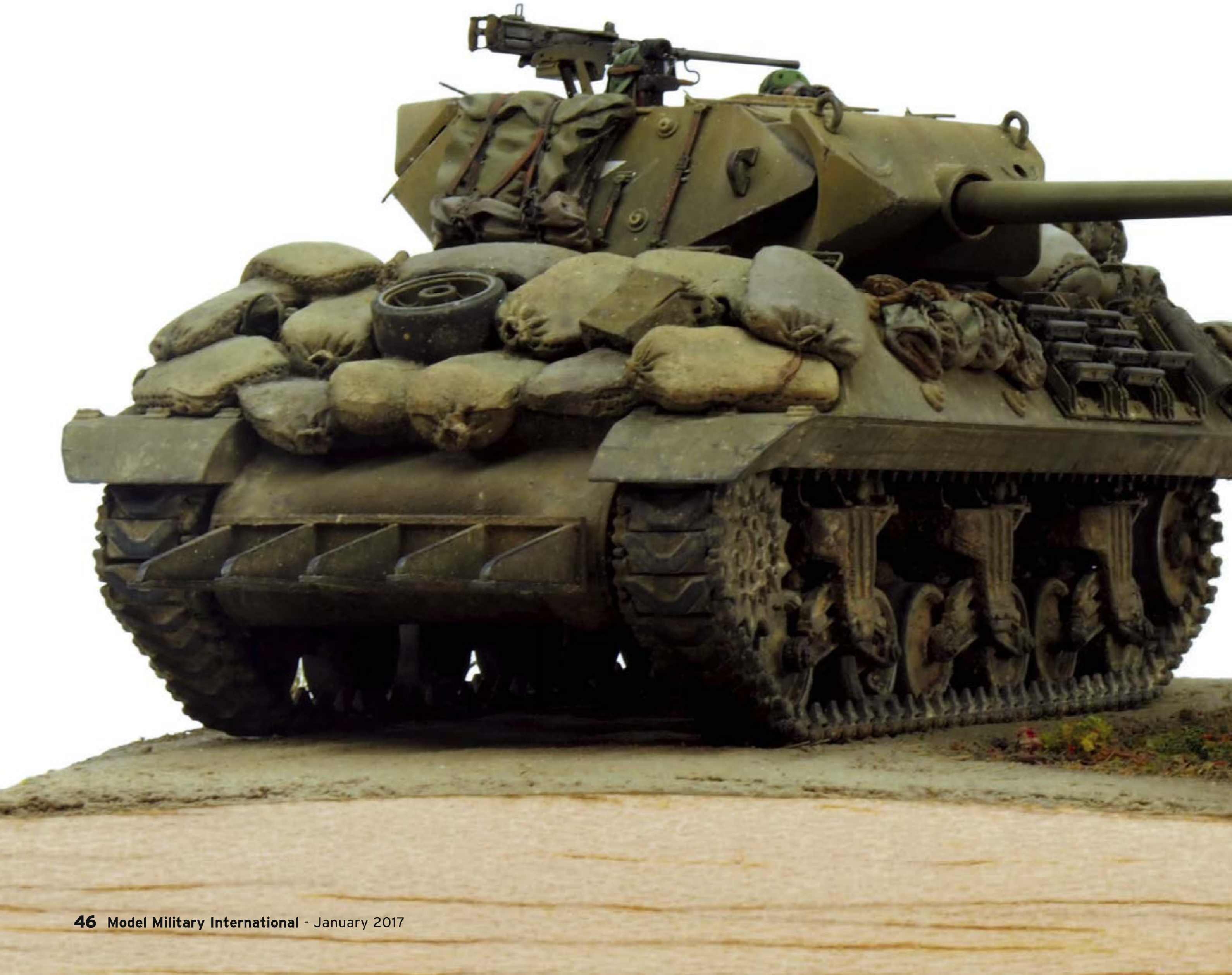
> **"This was a very enjoyable project. It was my first WWI work ever and I'm certain will not be the last..."**

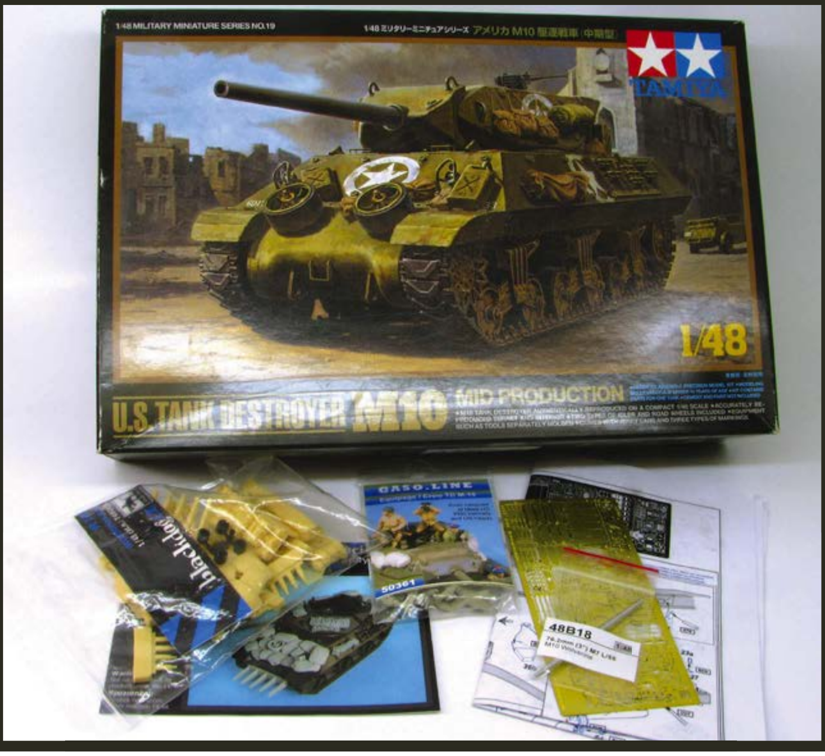


OPERATION COBRA 1944

PART ONE – CONSTRUCTION

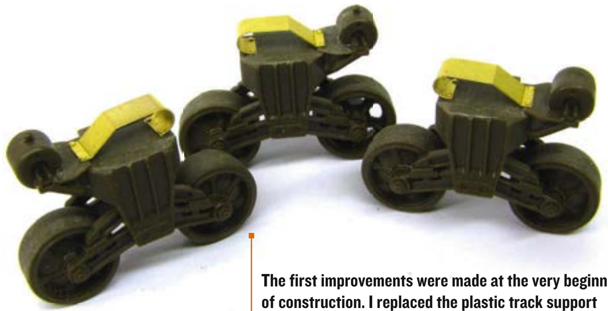
Kamil Feliks Sztarbala details and weathers up Tamiya's 1:48 scale M10 Tank Destroyer in preparation for its inclusion in a diorama.



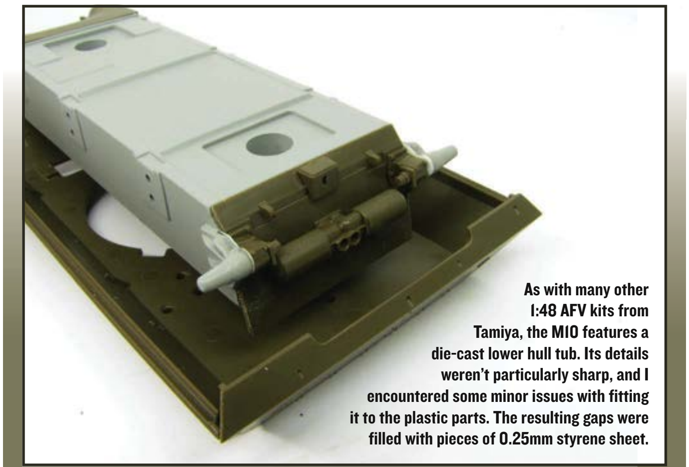

1:48 MILITARY MINIATURE SERIES NO.19
TAMIYA
1/48
U.S. TANK DESTROYER M10 MID PRODUCTION
blackdog
CASO.LINE
50361
48B18

I obtained some metal goodies from two Polish companies, namely Aber's photo-etched detail set and turned metal barrels from RB Model. Czech manufacturer Black Dog supplied a set of stowage, nicely cast in yellowish resin.

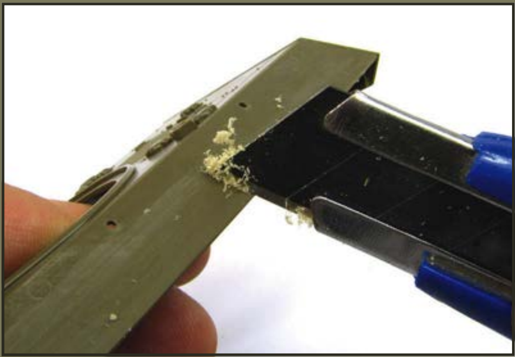
The 1:48 scale M10 U.S. Tank Destroyer is without a doubt, one of the best armoured vehicle kits ever released by Tamiya. One may achieve an impressive result even when building it straight from the box. However, I decided to check how far I could go with enhancing the already excellent base model.



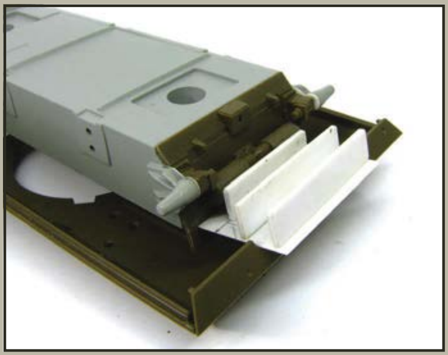
The first improvements were made at the very beginning of construction. I replaced the plastic track support skids with photo-etched parts from the Aber set.



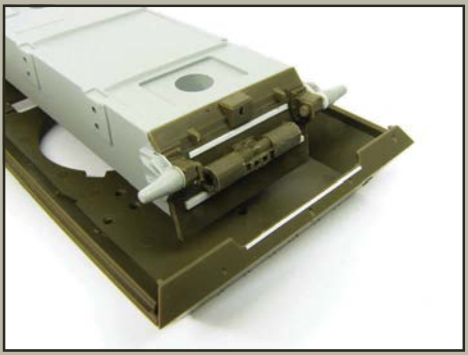
As with many other 1:48 AFV kits from Tamiya, the M10 features a die-cast lower hull tub. Its details weren't particularly sharp, and I encountered some minor issues with fitting it to the plastic parts. The resulting gaps were filled with pieces of 0.25mm styrene sheet.



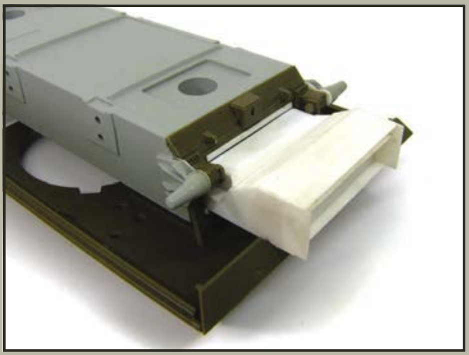
The hull sides were affected with fine longitudinal sink marks. I levelled the surface by scraping off some plastic with a hobby knife blade.



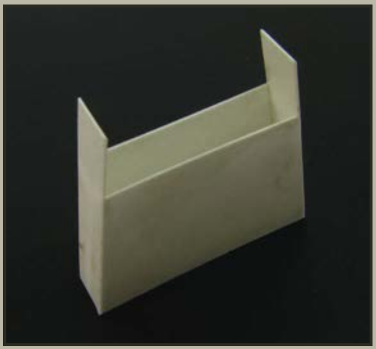
Inspired by an archive picture, I chose to add the deep water fording kit. My first step was to scratch build the basic structure of the exhaust adapter pan.



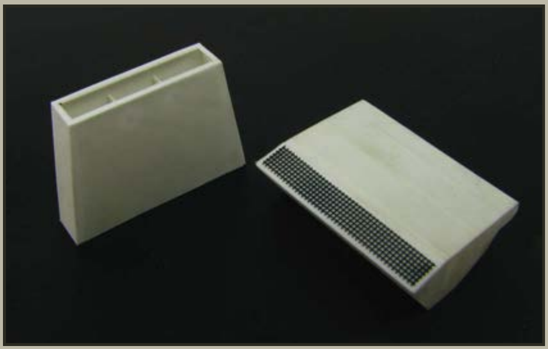
Next, I made the attachment strips from pieces of 0.25 styrene sheet, and glued them to the hull. At this stage, I also had to slightly reduce the size of the kit's exhaust.



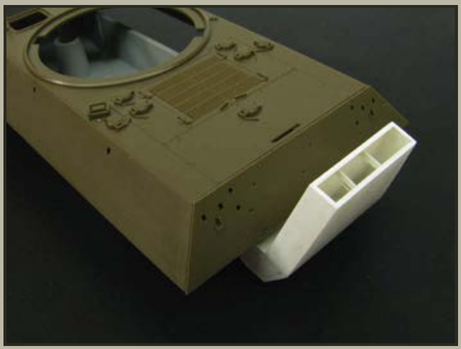
Even though I've been using the original U.S. Army manual as my main reference in order to ensure a high level of accuracy, I had to consider that the kit slightly differed from the original vehicle in a few areas. This forced me to dry-fit and modify the adapter pan elements several times.



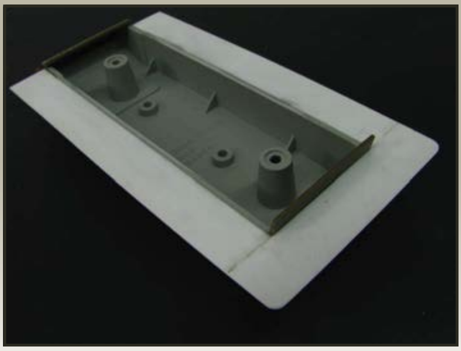
The basic shape of the exhaust stack was built from pieces of 0.5mm HIPS sheet...



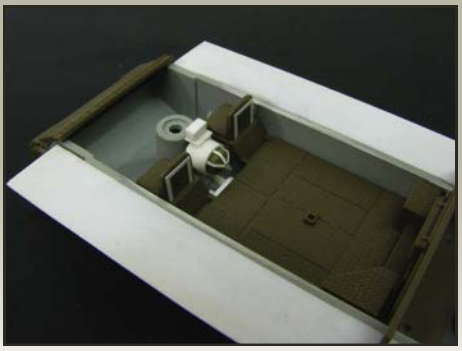
...and detailed by adding thin strips of 0.25mm styrene sheet and a piece of vinyl mesh.



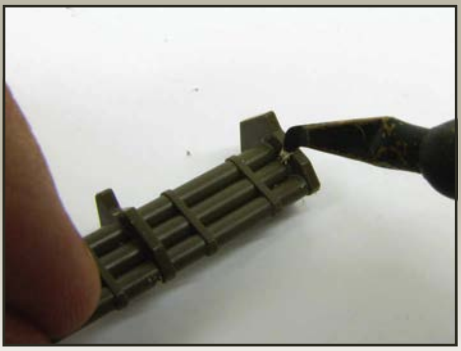
The finished deep water fording kit was perfectly adjusted to the hull shape. Achieving this goal was very important, as I intended to leave this sub-assembly separate for the painting process.



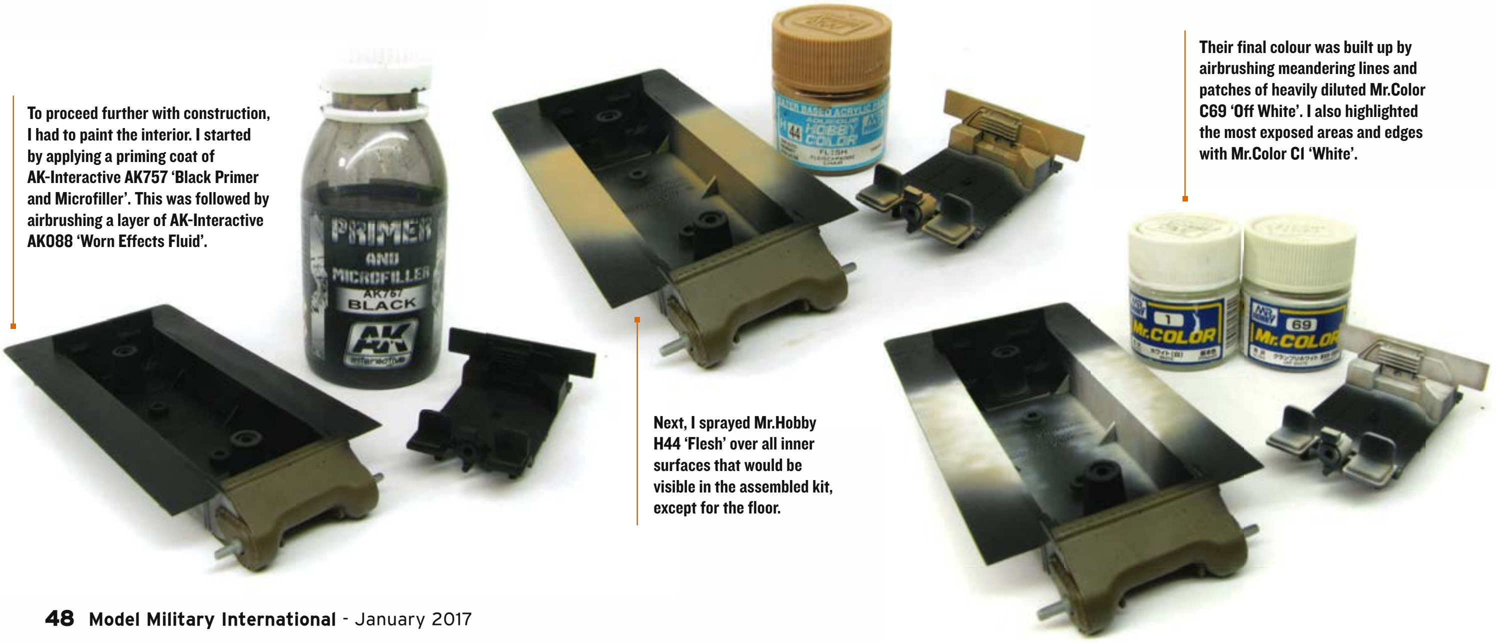
Tamiya designers tend to omit representing those details or features of the original vehicles that would be almost invisible in a fully assembled kit, thereby their 1:48 scale AFV models often lack the main sections of the fenders. In this case, I replicated the latter on my own, using pieces of 0.5mm styrene sheet.



Bearing in mind that this may be a waste of time, I nonetheless created a simple representation of the gearbox. During this process, I had to ensure that it would not foul the huge metal screw tunnel.



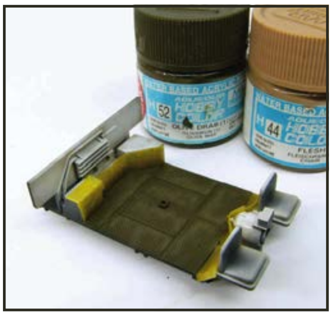
The edge detail of the ammo racks was emphasized with 'Mr.Scriber Narrow' tool from Mr.Paint.



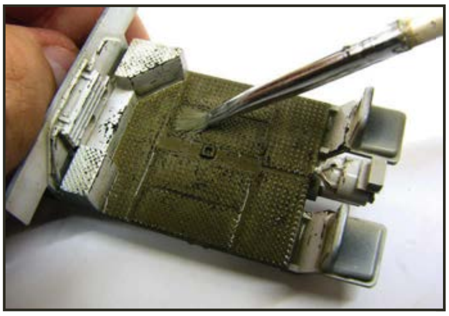
To proceed further with construction, I had to paint the interior. I started by applying a priming coat of AK-Interactive AK757 'Black Primer and Microfiller'. This was followed by airbrushing a layer of AK-Interactive AK088 'Worn Effects Fluid'.

Next, I sprayed Mr.Hobby H44 'Flesh' over all inner surfaces that would be visible in the assembled kit, except for the floor.

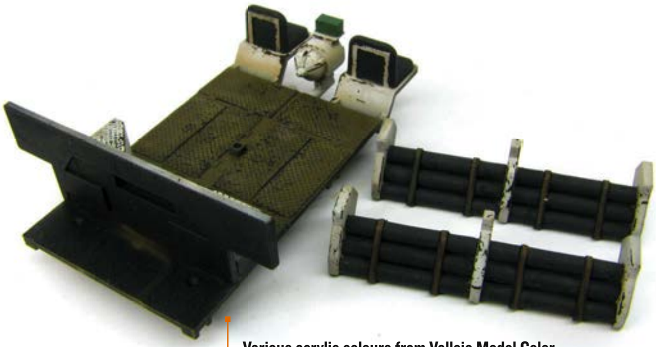
Their final colour was built up by airbrushing meandering lines and patches of heavily diluted Mr.Color C69 'Off White'. I also highlighted the most exposed areas and edges with Mr.Color C1 'White'.



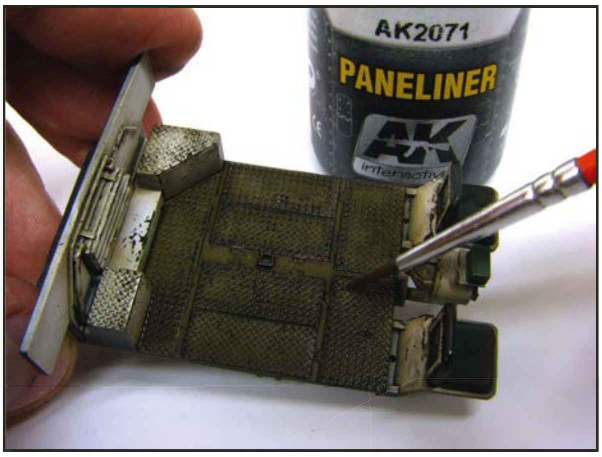
The floor was given a basecoat of Mr.Hobby H52 'Olive Drab'. I then added some highlights with a mixture of the base colour and H44 'Flesh'.



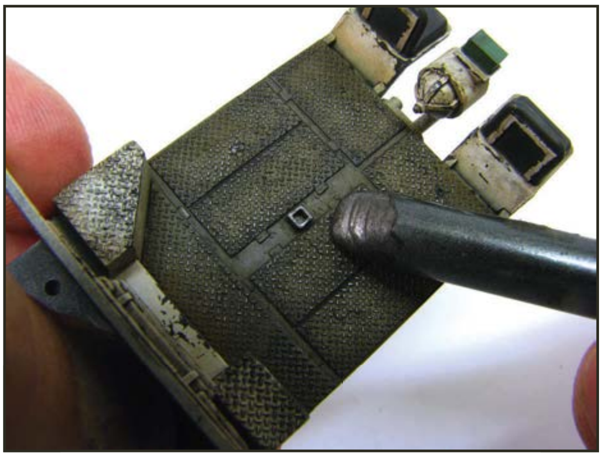
Taking advantage of the properties of the previously applied AK-Interactive's chipping fluid layer, I added some damage to the paint layer with a wet, stiff bristle brush.



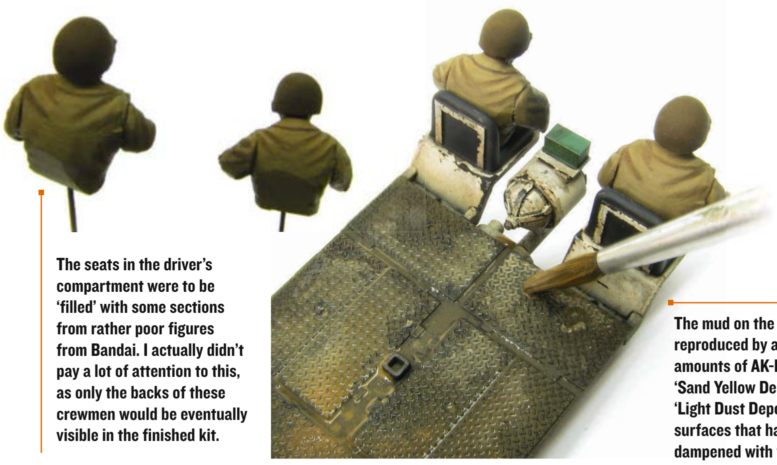
Various acrylic colours from Vallejo Model Color range were used to brush paint the details.



Those details were brought out with AK-Interactive AK2071 'Paneliner for Brown and Green Camouflage'.

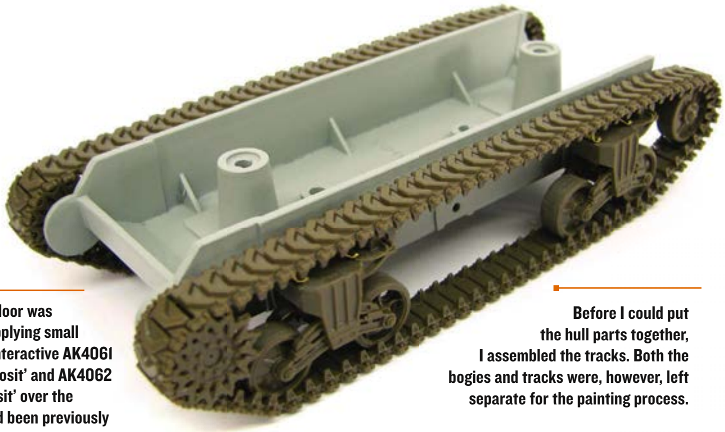


Afterwards, I added some deep scratches down to bare metal, using an 8B pencil.

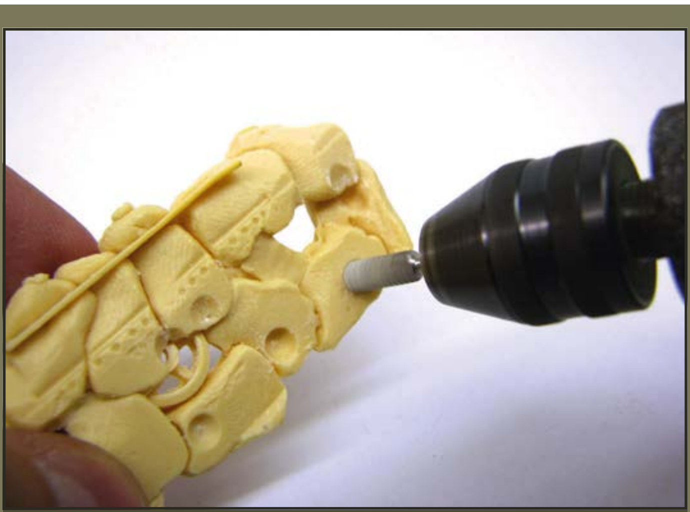


The seats in the driver's compartment were to be 'filled' with some sections from rather poor figures from Bandai. I actually didn't pay a lot of attention to this, as only the backs of these crewmen would be eventually visible in the finished kit.

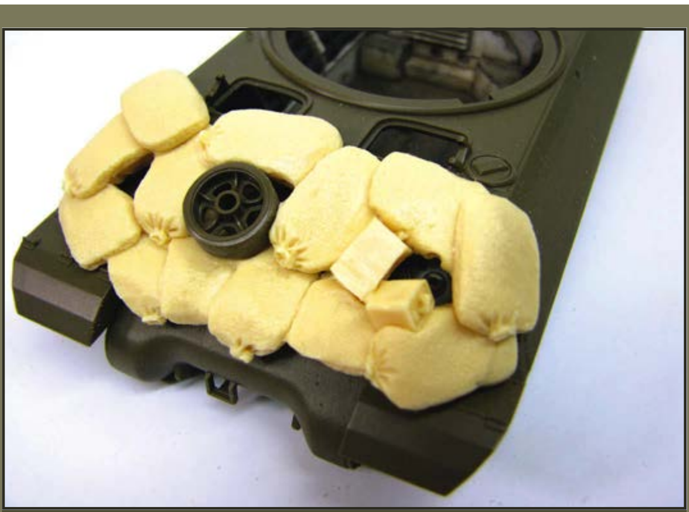
The mud on the floor was reproduced by applying small amounts of AK-Interactive AK4061 'Sand Yellow Deposit' and AK4062 'Light Dust Deposit' over the surfaces that had been previously dampened with white spirit.



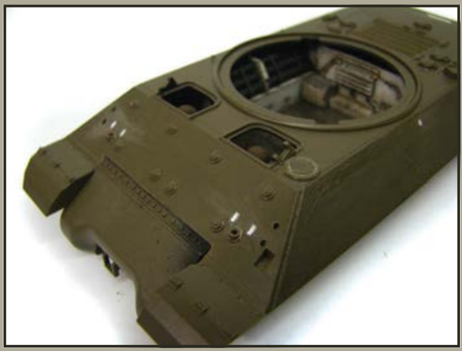
Before I could put the hull parts together, I assembled the tracks. Both the bogies and tracks were, however, left separate for the painting process.



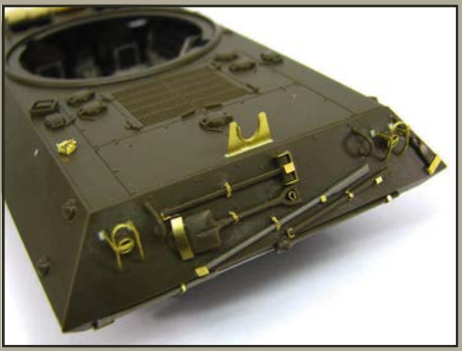
Once I'd glued the hull, I focused on adjusting the stowage from the Black Dog set. First of all, I had to mill out some apertures at the bottoms of the resin parts, in order to ensure that they would properly lay out over the kit's surface details.



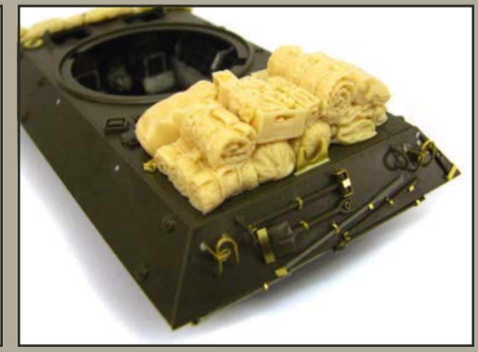
The spare wheel located amongst the sand bags was affected by flash. In this case, it was easier to remove this detail with a milling bit, and use a plastic wheel from the Tamiya kit as the replacement.



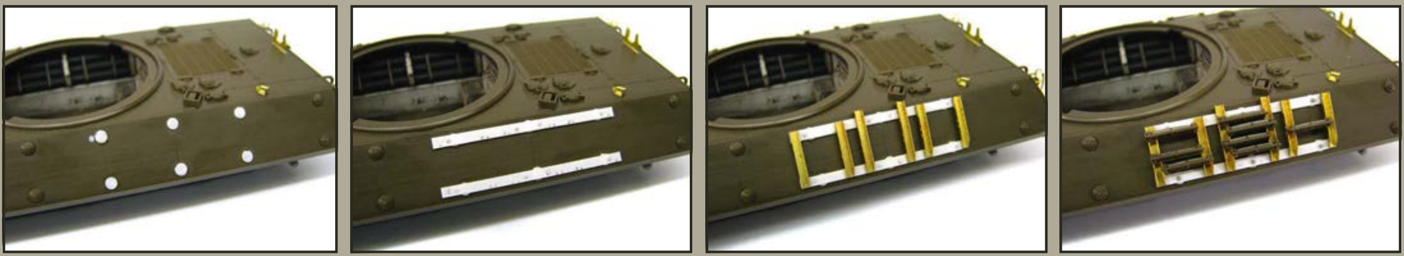
To allow the use of the photo-etched parts, I had to fill most of the small, moulded mounting holes within the hull surface. I plugged them with precisely cut lengths of styrene rod, and sealed them with cyano, which also acted as a putty.



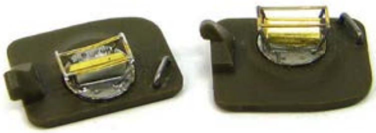
Some of the pioneer tools were sourced from Hauler's set, but in most cases it was enough to slightly improve the kit parts.



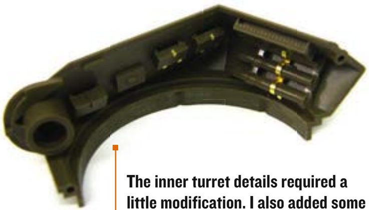
Whilst mounting the photo-etched details, I had to ensure that they would not foul the resin stowage.



The side racks offered by Tamiya were over-simplified, however, the photo-etched counterparts from Aber's set turned out not to be fully accurate. To correctly represent the rack design, I firstly attached a few plastic discs with a 2mm diameter, punched from some 0.25mm styrene sheet, using RP Toolz 'Punch and Die Tool Set'. Next, I glued two strips of 0.25mm styrene sheet onto the discs. This way I formed the base for the photo-etched parts. Finally, I added a number of track pads that had been cut from the kit's side racks.



As I was going to keep the hull hatches closed, I had to assemble the periscopes in the open position. The cover was soldered to the base.



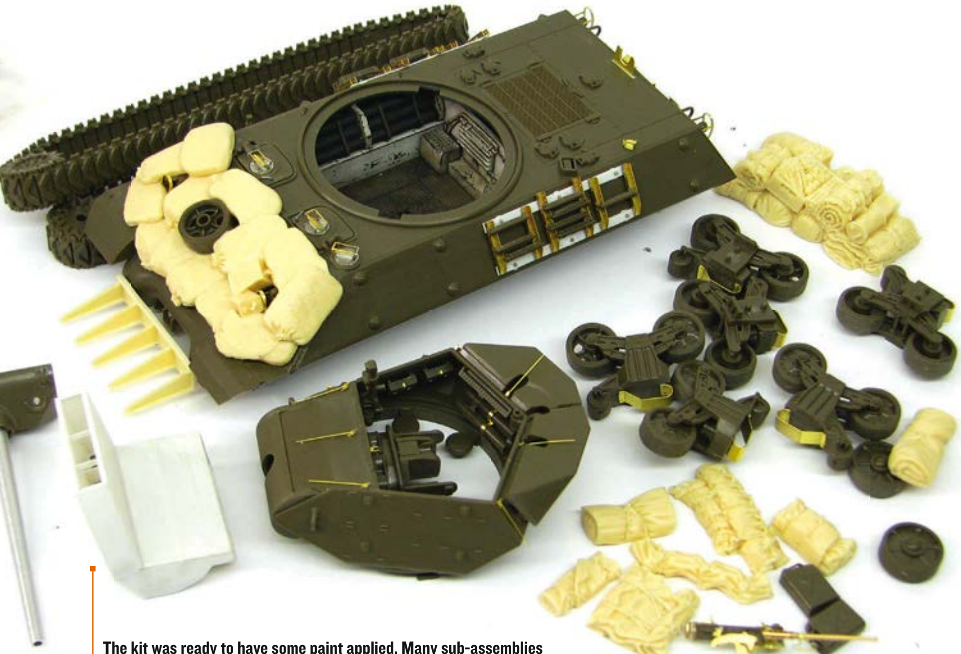
The inner turret details required a little modification. I also added some photo-etched parts that represented the straps, clamps and hinges.

Due to its peculiar design, the turret couldn't be painted before the end of the construction process.

As I intended to place some stowage on the sides, I didn't mount all the photo-etched details provided for the turret exterior.

Although RB-Model's turned metal main gun barrel was developed specifically for this kit, it required a minor modification to allow hassle-free assembly.

Another metal barrel from the Polish manufacturer was used to improve the machine gun, together with some photo-etched bits from the Aber set.

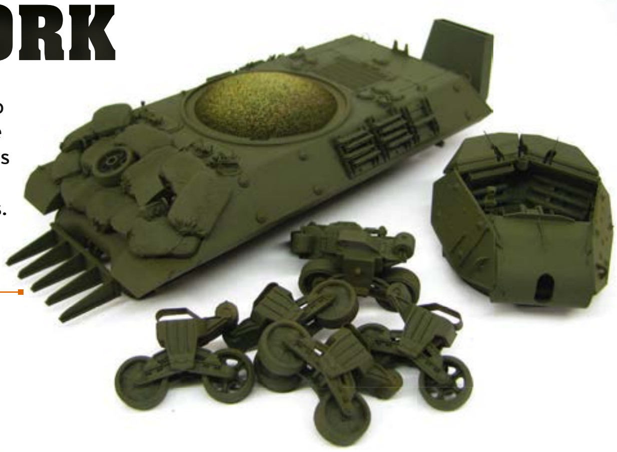


The kit was ready to have some paint applied. Many sub-assemblies and details were left separate for the forthcoming stage.

> **"The 1:48 scale M10 U.S. Tank Destroyer is without a doubt, one of the best armoured vehicle kits ever released by Tamiya..."**

PAINTWORK

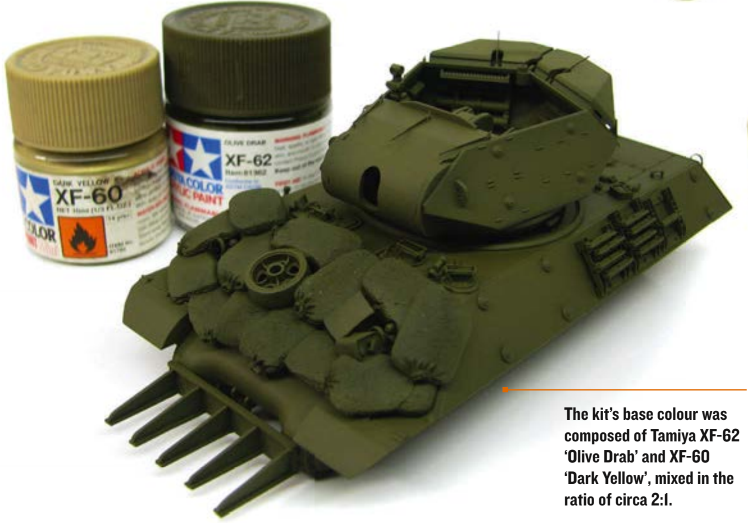
Whilst selecting the paints, I had to consider the scale effect. If I chose tones that were too dark, there was a chance that small kit would look quite sad at the end of the process.



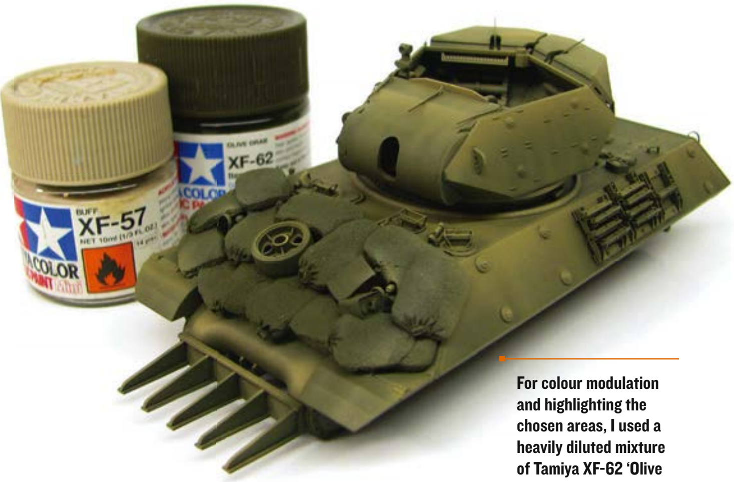
My first step was to apply a priming coat of Tamiya XF-62 'Olive Drab' over the entire kit, minus the tracks and stowage.

MRP
FINE SURFACE PRIMER
MRP-85

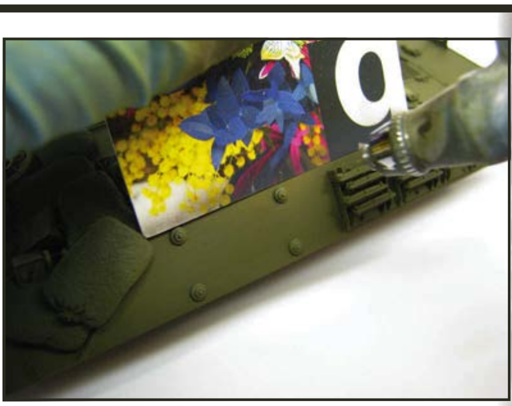
The latter were primed with Mr.Paint MRP-085 'Fine Surface Primer Black'.



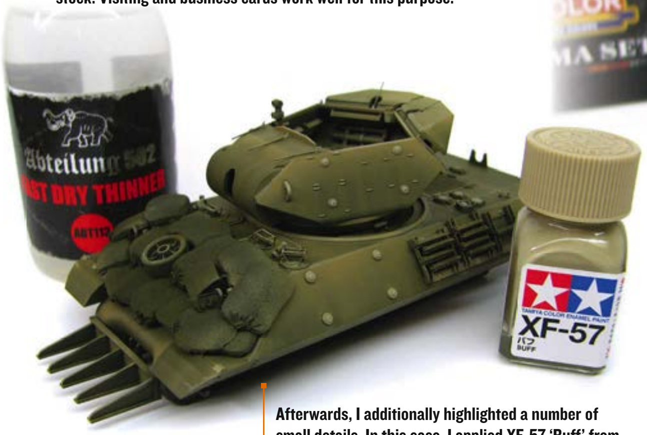
The kit's base colour was composed of Tamiya XF-62 'Olive Drab' and XF-60 'Dark Yellow', mixed in the ratio of circa 2:1.



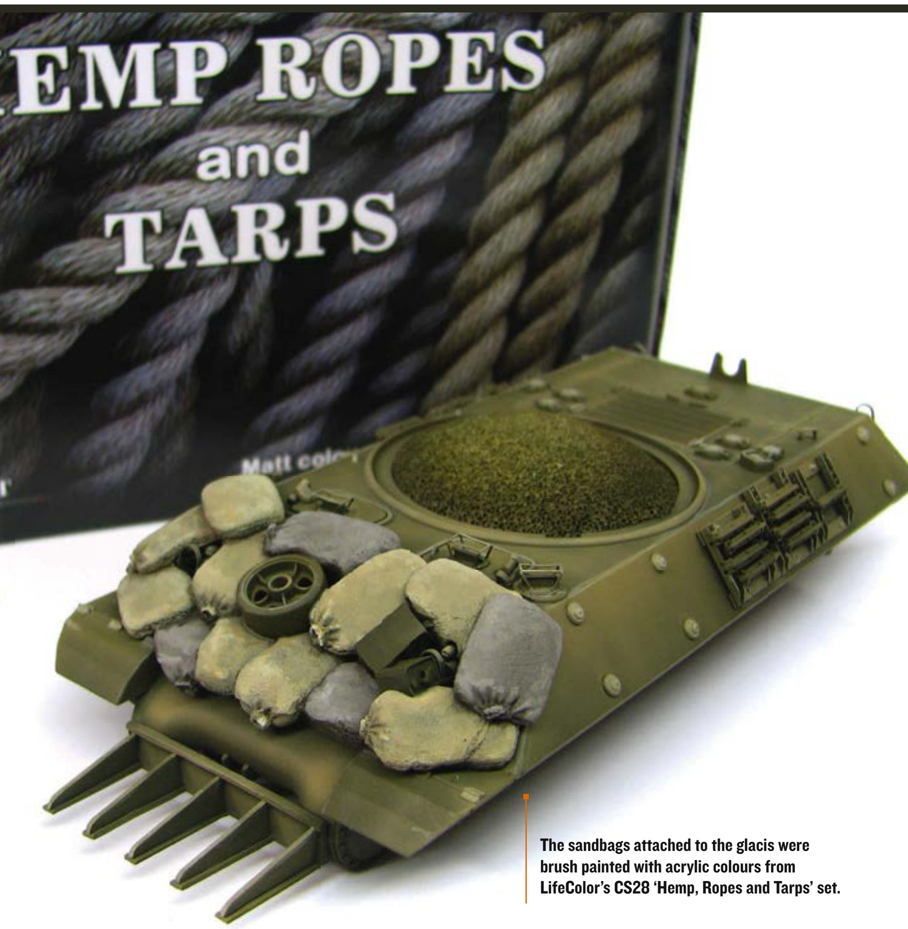
For colour modulation and highlighting the chosen areas, I used a heavily diluted mixture of Tamiya XF-62 'Olive Drab' and XF-57 'Buff'.



During this process, I masked the adjacent surfaces with a piece of card stock. Visiting and business cards work well for this purpose.



Afterwards, I additionally highlighted a number of small details. In this case, I applied XF-57 'Buff' from Tamiya's enamel range, mixed in different ratios with Abteilung 502 ABT113 'Fast Dry Thinner'.



The sandbags attached to the glacis were brush painted with acrylic colours from LifeColor's CS28 'Hemp, Ropes and Tarps' set.

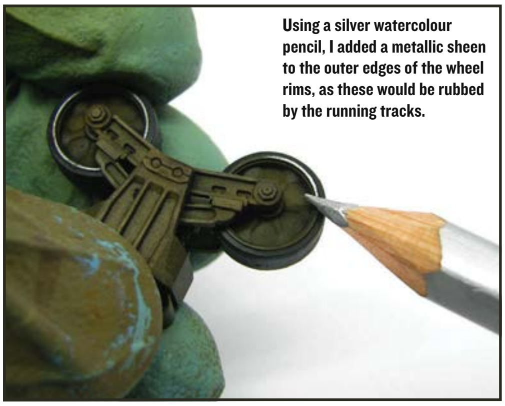
The same set of paints, supplemented with a number of greenish tones from the LifeColor CS11 'U.S. Olive Drab' set, were used to give the appropriate colours to other components of the stowage.

ABT080. Brown Wash
ABT240. Cream Brown
ABT040. Faded Green
Faded Dark Yellow
ABT130. Dark Mud
Smoke
ABTEILUNG S.L.
20 ml

I subsequently added both light and shadow with various oil colours from 502 Abteilung, and sealed the paintwork with a layer of matte varnish.

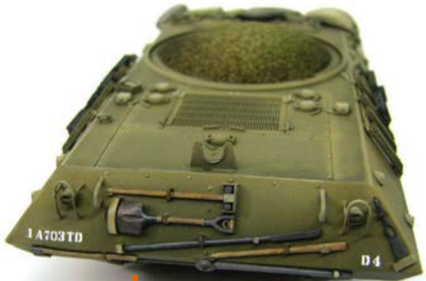
A041 Night Black
HATAKA
ACRYLIC PAINT

The rubber portions of the road wheels were painted with Hataka HTK-A041 'Night Black'.



Using a silver watercolour pencil, I added a metallic sheen to the outer edges of the wheel rims, as these would be rubbed by the running tracks.

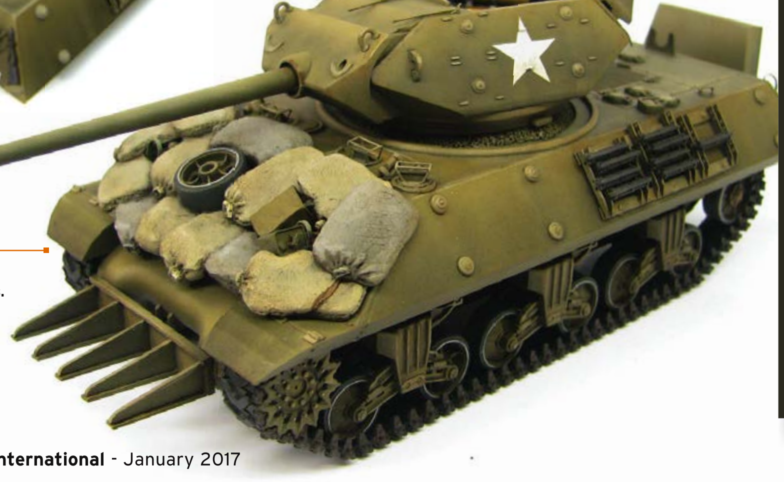
Those areas where the decals would be applied, were airbrushed with a layer of Mr.Color C46 'Gloss Clear'.



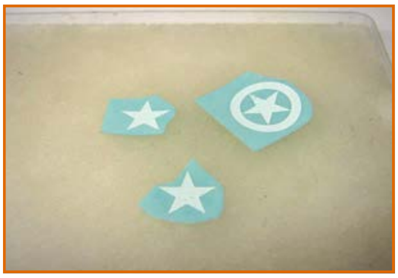
The tactical marking had to be composed from pieces of various spare decals, as none of those provided with the kit would work for a vehicle used in Operation Cobra. All decals were sealed with a layer of matte varnish.

enamel
WASH
DARK BROWN

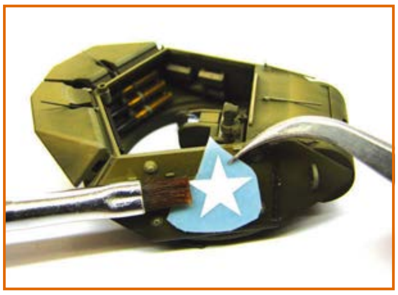
To accentuate the details, I used AK-interactive AK045 'Dark Brown Wash for Green Vehicles', slightly diluted with white spirit.



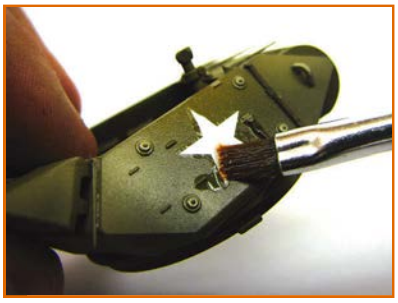
At this stage, I assembled the suspension and tracks.



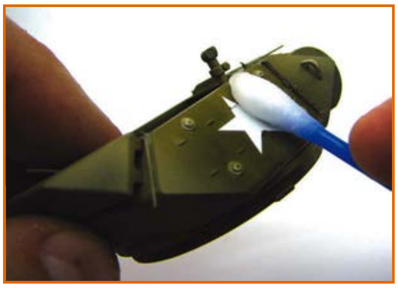
I cut the chosen markings from the decal sheet, and placed them on a piece of sponge that had been heavily soaked with water. This sponge had also been previously placed within a shallow dish, in order to prevent the water from escaping over the workbench. After a few minutes, the backing paper became evenly soaked, and the decals were ready for application.



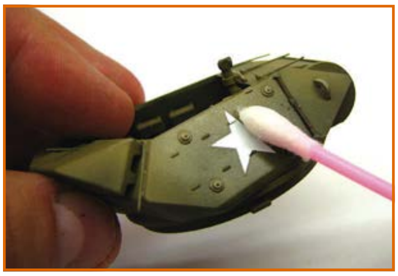
I then slid the paper out from the decal as I held the latter in place with a brush.



Next, I heavily soaked the decal with Microscale 'Micro Sol' softening solution.



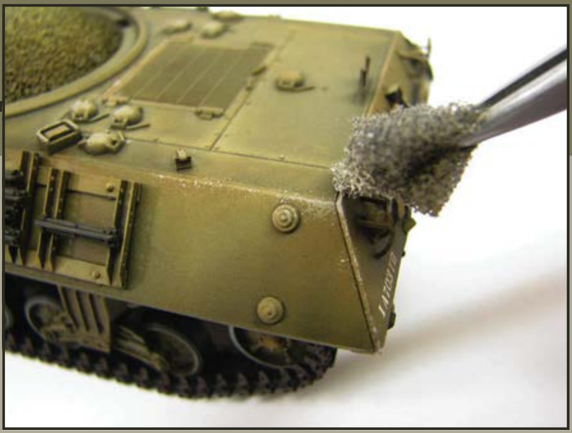
With more and more 'Micro Sol' applied, the decal became increasingly flabby as time passed by. I subsequently pressed it into the surface by rolling over the area with a cotton bud. This way I allowed the decal to drape down the surface details, and removing the excess softening solution.



Once the decal had fully conformed to the surface, I took a wet cotton bud, and removed the remnants of 'Micro Sol' and decal adhesive.

WEATHERING

In the case of this model, I chose to limit the presence of mud effects. However, even if one is going to stick to dust only, it is important not to confine to just one pigment tone (or any other weathering product used for this purpose). These effects don't need to be very contrasting, but it is worth avoiding monotony.



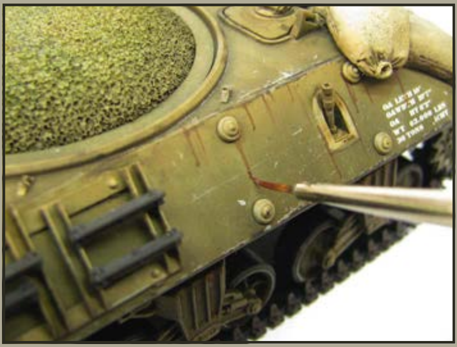
The weathering process was begun by adding the damage to the paint layer. For fine abrasions, I used heavily diluted Vallejo 70883 'Silver Grey'. I first applied tiny amounts of paint, using a piece of sponge, held with tweezers and gave the scratches their final shape with a very fine brush.

I also blew some heavily diluted paint from a brush, in order to create tiny irregular patches over chosen areas.

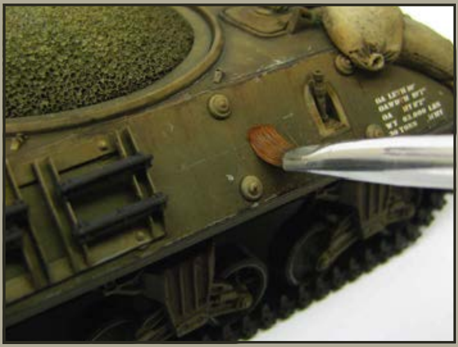
The deepest paint chips and scratches were painted using a very fine brush and AK-interactive AK711 'Chipping Color'.

ABT080. Brown Wash
ABTEILUNG S.L.

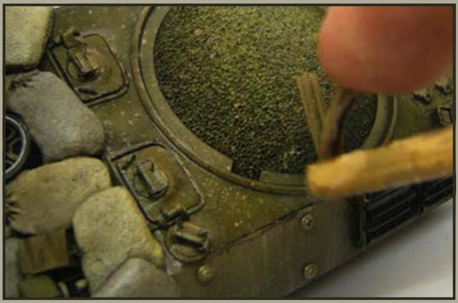
To create the streaks and staining on the hull sides, I utilized two oil colours from Abteilung 502; namely the ABT240 'Cream Brown' and ABT080 'Brown Wash'.



I began by applying very thin streaks of paint...



...which were subsequently blended over the surface with a dry brush.

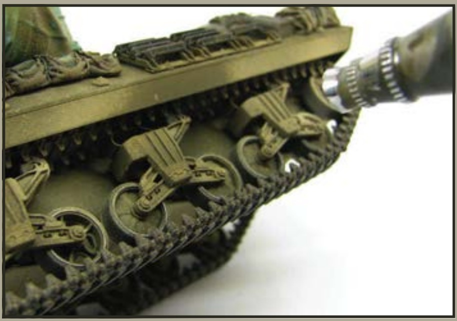


Three products from Ammo MiG's 'Medium Density Mud Splashes' range, i.e. A.MiG-1751 'Dry Steppe', A.MiG-1750 'Dry Earth' and A.MiG-1755 'Wet Ground', were used to replicate the dirt on the upper areas of the hull. I dampened the latter with white spirit, and speckled them with small amounts of each of the aforementioned products, using a purposely damaged toothbrush.

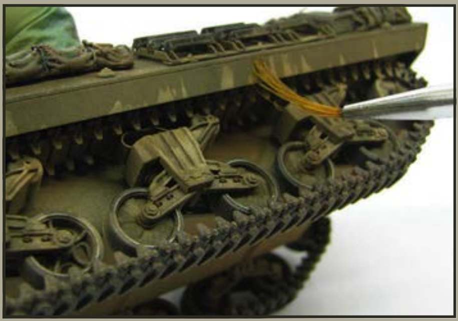
The enamels were further distributed with a brush that had been soaked with white spirit. I moved the tool in such a motion that allowed me to create additional streaking effects on the hull sides, and build up some dirt accumulation in chosen areas of the hull top.

The hull edges were then rubbed with an 8B pencil in order to give them a bare metal look. I could now attach the resin stowage sections, using tiny amounts of cyano. A few details, such as the canisters, were fastened to the rack with a thin string.

Next, I brush painted some staining and grease onto the engine deck. For this purpose, I mixed A.MiG-1408 'Fresh Engine Oil', AK-interactive AK045 'Dark Brown Wash for Green Vehicles', and white spirit, in different ratios.



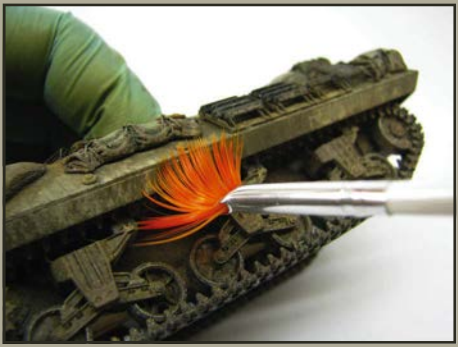
The lower areas of the hull and running gear were airbrushed with AK-interactive AK4062 'Light Dust Deposit'.



By wiping the enamel product with a brush that had been dampened with white spirit, I created some vertical streaks...

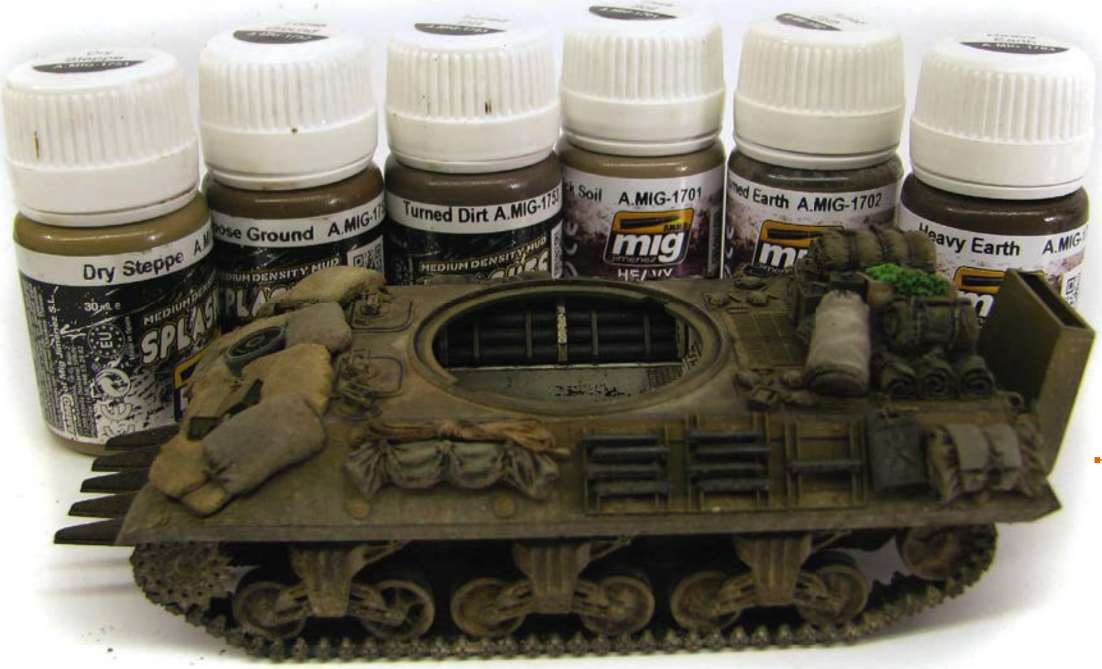
...and built up dust accumulation in the various nooks and crannies of the bogies.

The lower areas were further speckled with A.MIG-1753 'Turned Dirt' and A.MiG-1751 'Dry Steppe'.



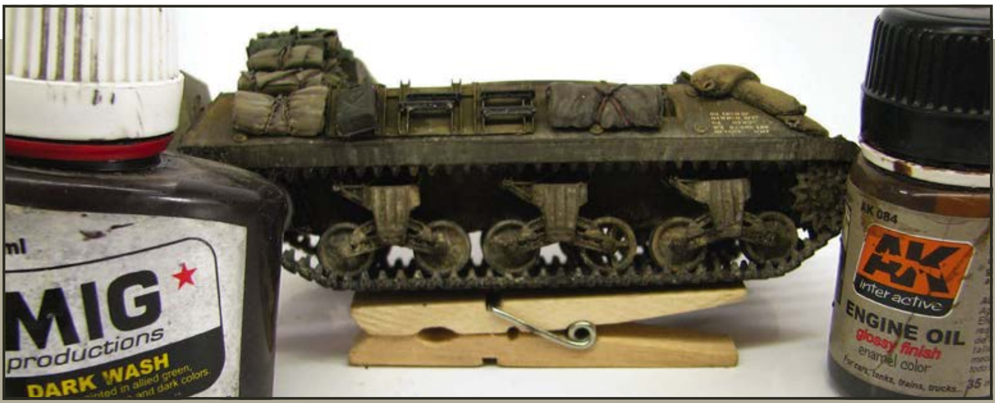
I distributed these enamels with a flat fan brush, forming vertical streaks.

Before the products had dried, I removed the excess from the rubber portions of the road wheels.



> "In the case of this model, I chose to limit the presence of mud effects..."

To create a realistic dirt texture on the lower hull tub and bogies, I applied small quantities of various enamels from MiG's Ammo 'Heavy Mud' and 'Medium Density Mud Splashes' series.

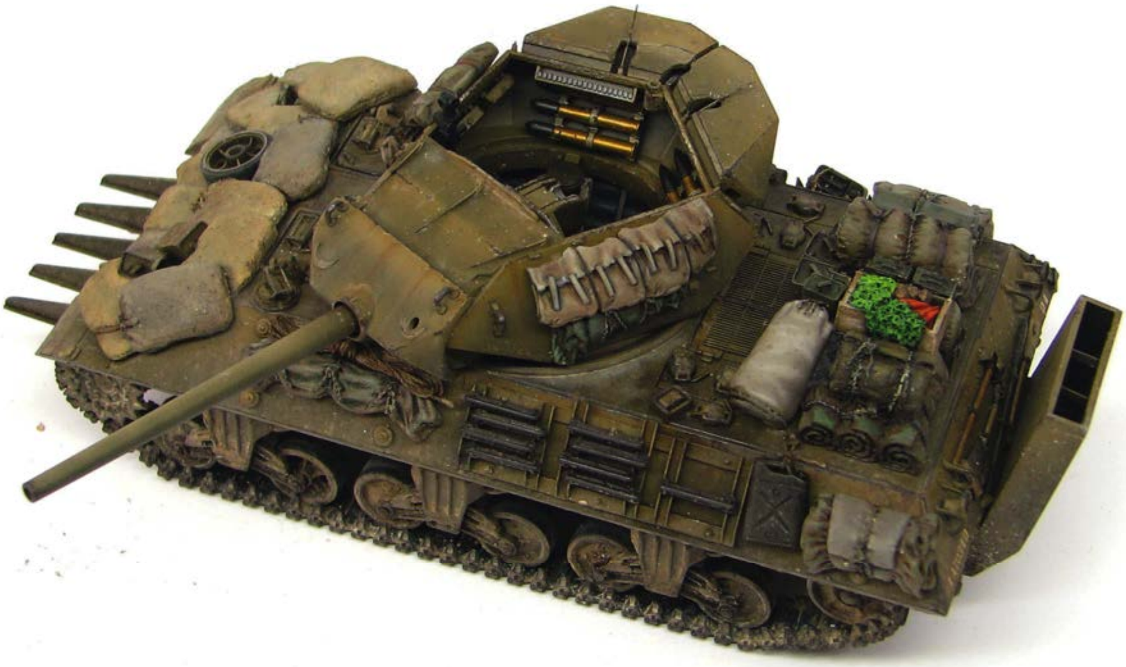


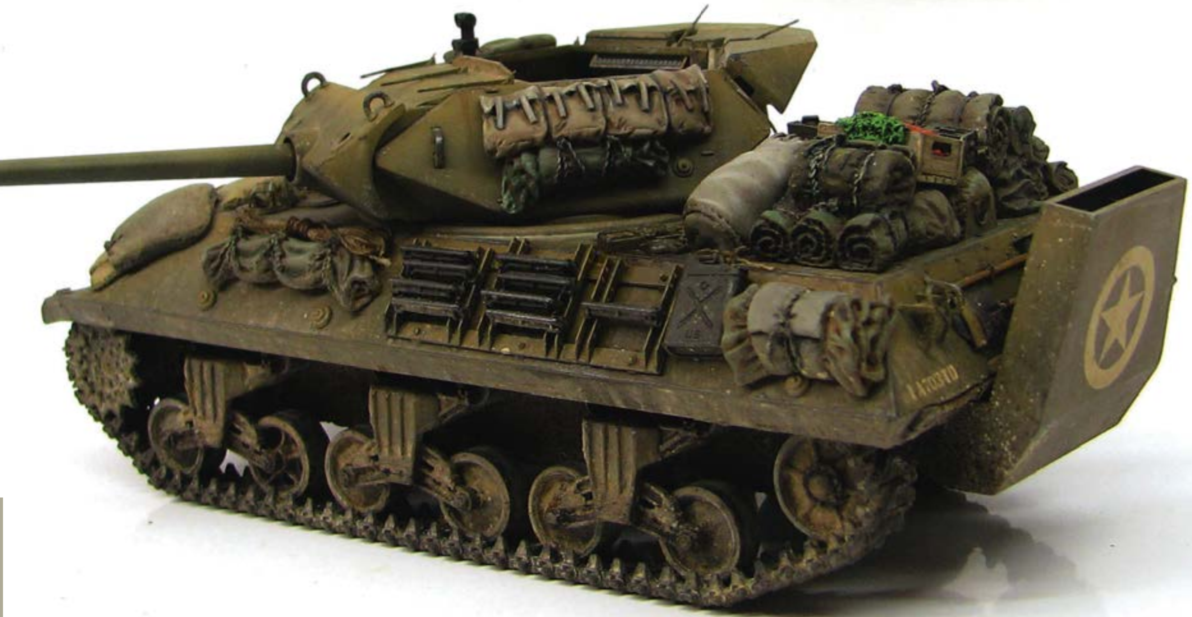
The fine oily staining on the bogies was replicated with AK-interactive AK084 'Engine Oil' and MIG Productions P220 'Dark Wash'. Mixing these products with each other in different ratios, and adding small quantities of white spirit, enabled me to obtain a variety of effects.

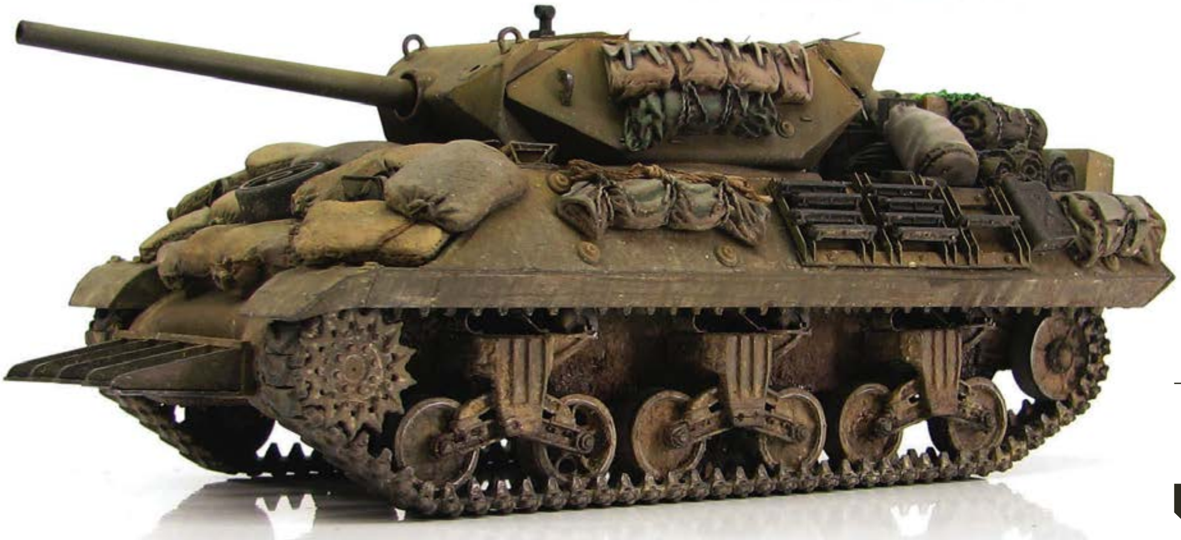
Next, I purposely damaged the dirt layer on the hull sides by scratching it with a toothpick...

...and rubbed the metal parts of the tracks with an 8B pencil.

The final step at this stage was to remove the excess mud from the outer edges of the wheel rims, using a silver watercolour pencil. This way I also restored the metal sheen on these surfaces.







The kit was now ready to be placed on a base.

Modelspec

Tamiya 1:48 US Tank Destroyer M10 Mid Production
Kit No. 32519

Accessories and sets

- Black Dog 1:48 scale US M10 Tank Destroyer Accessories Set - Item No. T48005
- Aber 1:48 scale US Tank Destroyer M10 detail set - Item No. 48022
- RB-Model 1:48 scale 76.2 mm (3 cale) M7 L/55 M10 Wolverine metal barrel - Item No. 48B18
- RB-Model 1:48 scale 12,7mm (0,5") Browning M2 metal barrel - Item No. 48B48
- Gaso.Line 1:48 scale US / French TD M10 Crew figure set - Item No. GAS50361
- Tamiya 1:48 scale US Infantry GI figure set - Kit #32513
- Wargames Factory 28mm WWII American Infantry figure set - Item No. WGF-W2002

Tools and Modelling Products:

- Tamiya Extra Thin Cement
- C.A. Glue
- Styrene Sheet, Strip and Rod
- Magic Sculp Epoxy Putty
- Mr. Paint Mr.Scriber Narrow
- RP Toolz Punch and Die Tool Set
- Styrodur Foam
- Balsa Wood
- Landscapes in Detail LANDS-102 Mosses
- Reality In Scale SCAT01 Stony Meadow Scatter
- Reality In Scale SCAT03 Nature-in-a-Pot Fine Autumn Forest Scatter

Paints and Finishing Products:

Paints:
- Tamiya (acrylic and enamel)
- Mr.Hobby
- Mr.Paint
- AK-Interactive
- Hataka
- Lifecolor
- Vallejo

Mr.Hobby Clear Varnishes
Microscale Decal Solutions
8B Pencil
Abteilung 502 oils and thinner
LifeColor LP02 Rust Wizard
MIG Productions P220 Dark Wash
Talens White Spirit
Uschi van der Rosten Metal Polishing Powder
Steel Type
AK-Interactive weathering products:
- AK045 Dark Brown Wash
- AK084 Engine Oil
- AK088 Worn Effects Fluid
- AK2071 Paneliner for Brown and Green Camouflage
- AK4061 Sand Yellow Deposit
- AK4062 Light Dust Deposit

Ammo MIG weathering products:
- A.MIG-1408 Fresh Engine Oil
- A.MiG-1750 Dry Earth
- A.MiG-1751 Dry Steppe
- A.MIG-1753 Turned Dirt
- A.MIG-1755 Wet Ground
- A.MiG-2012 Sand and Gravel Glue

✓ Good level of detail; generally excellent fit; appealing subject.

✗ White Metal lower hull detail is a bit soft.

Available from

Tamiya kits are distributed in the UK by The Hobby Company Limited - www.hobbyco.net

Rating ●●●●●●●●○○

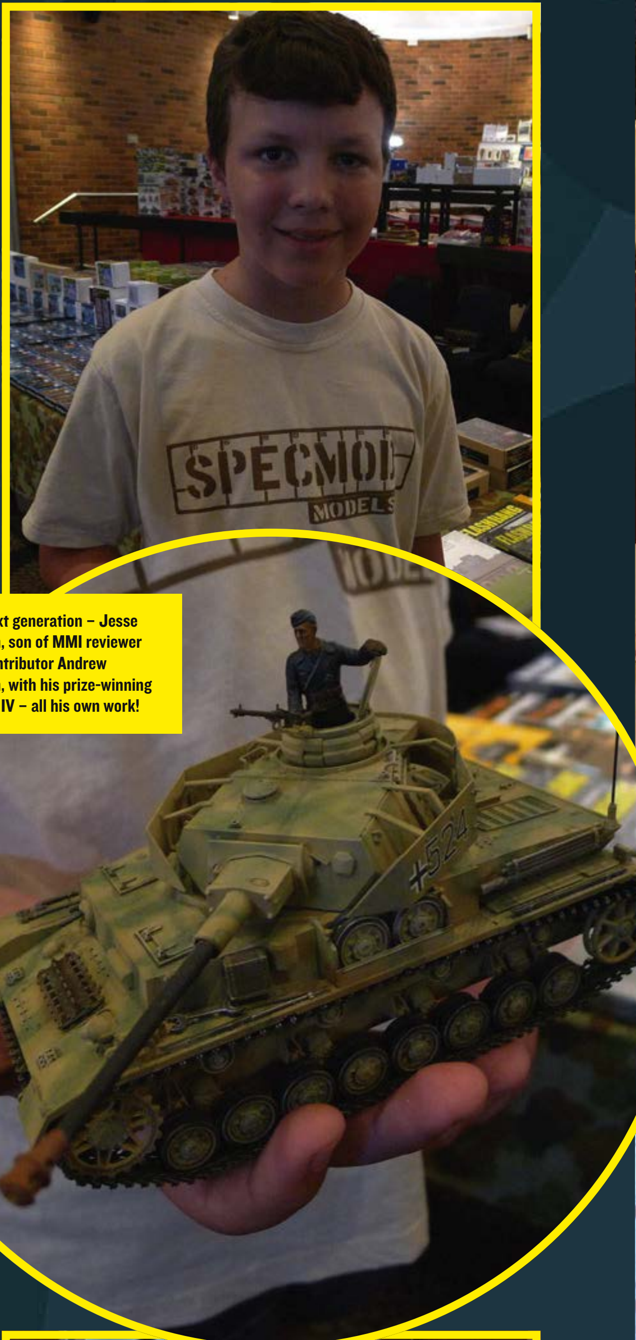
SYDNEY SCALE
MODEL SHOW
SYDNEY
SCALE
MODEL
SHOW
sydneyscalemodelshow@gmail.com.au
www.sydneyscalemodelshow.org/

SYDNEY SCALE MODEL SHOW 2016

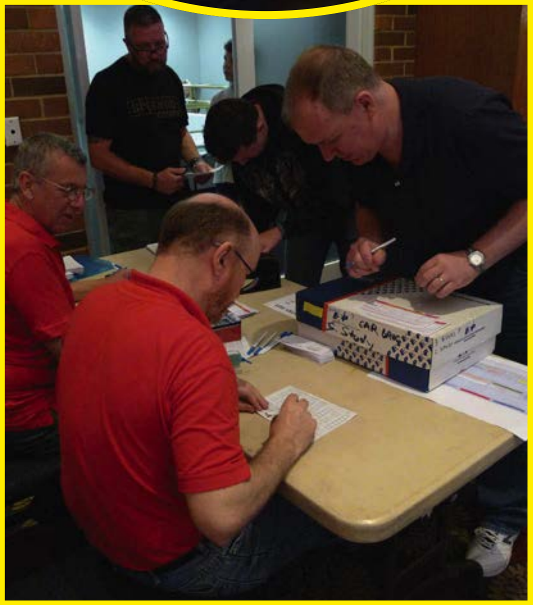
The sixth annual Sydney Scale Model Show was held on Saturday 22 October 2016 at Parramatta RSL.

There were plenty of high quality models in competition across all categories, including Juniors.

A good range of traders were on hand too, including Creative Models Australia, Fold-It Hobbies, Platypus Publications, Custom Decals and Simply Glues. ■


SPECMOD
MODELS

The next generation – Jesse Judson, son of MMI reviewer and contributor Andrew Judson, with his prize-winning Panzer IV – all his own work!



Registering competition entries.

MILITARY AIRCRAFT
JETS
PLEASE DO NOT
THE MODEL
AUSTRALIAN
AMMS
SYDNEY

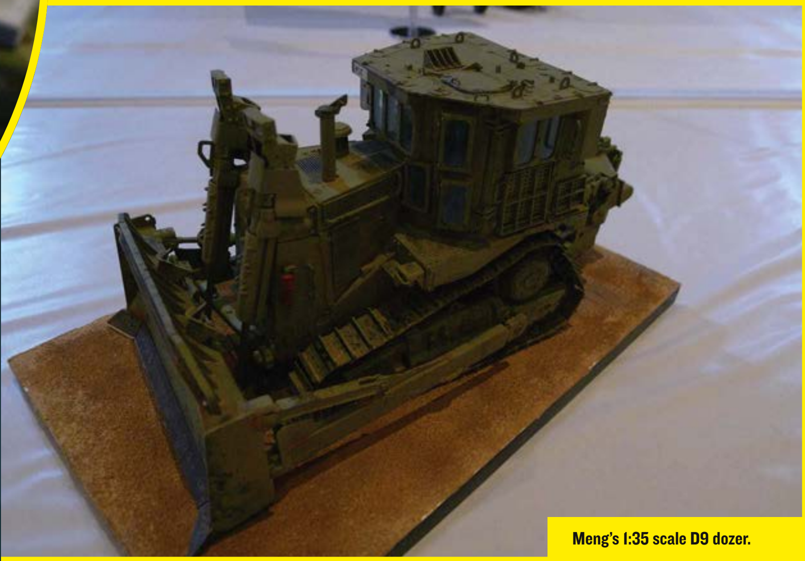
Competition tables filling out.

Australian Military Modelling Society
AMMS
SYDNEY

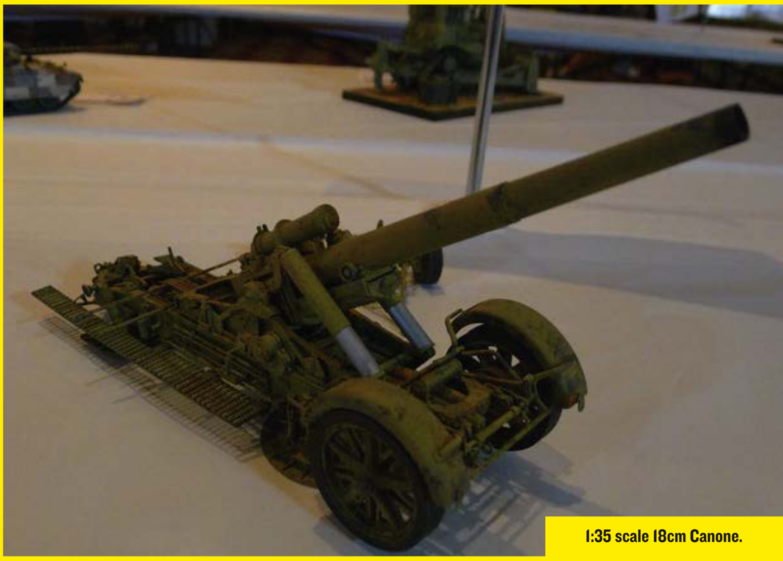
AMMS is a military modelling club with a number of branches in Australia.

Lots of traders on hand with new kits and accessories.

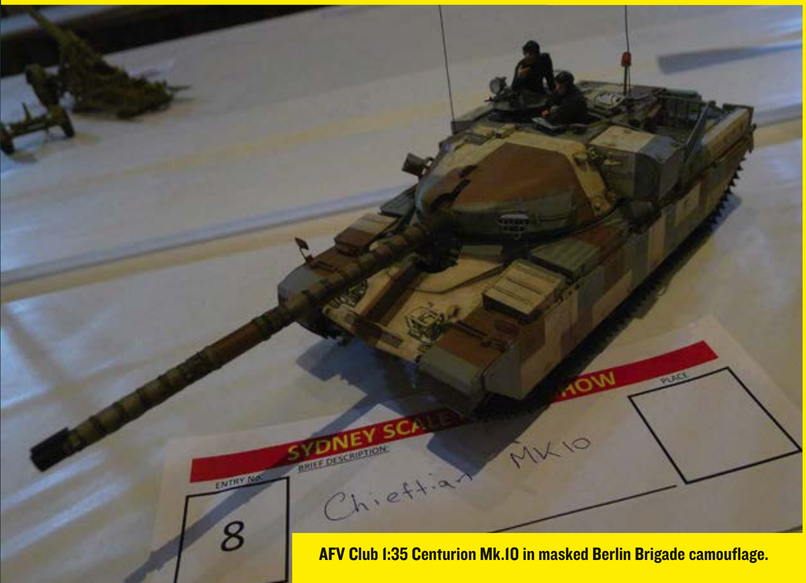
Tools too!



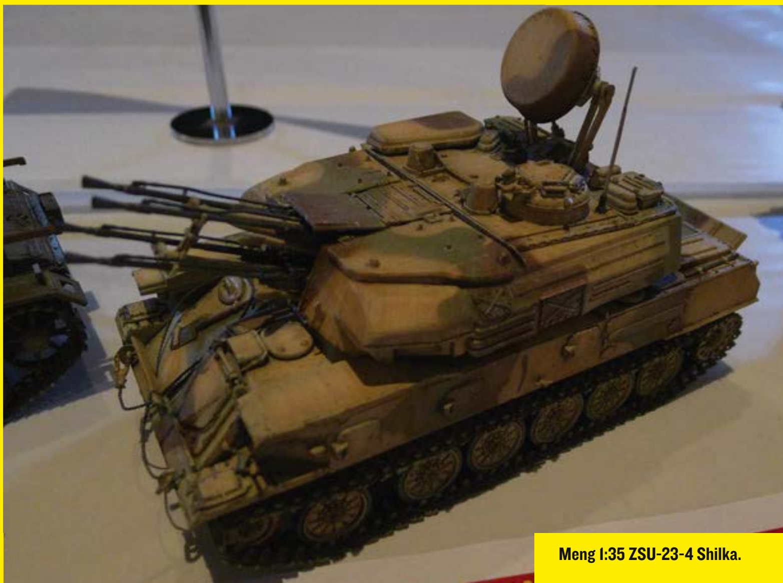
Meng's 1:35 scale D9 dozer.



1:35 scale 18cm Canone.


SYDNEY SCALE
SHOW
ENTRY No.
BRIEF DESCRIPTION
PLACE
8
Chieftain MK10

AFV Club 1:35 Centurion Mk.10 in masked Berlin Brigade camouflage.



Meng 1:35 ZSU-23-4 Shilka.

Book Reviews

Kübelwagen
and Schwimmwagen
by David Doyle
A VISUAL HISTORY OF THE GERMAN ARMY'S MULTI-PURPOSE VEHICLES

KUBELWAGEN A VISUAL HISTORY OF THE GERMAN ARMY'S MULTI-PURPOSE VEHICLES

BY DAVID DOYLE

ISBN 978-1-944367-03-0
AMPERSAND PUBLISHING

I must confess, having owned quite a number myself, that I am an air-cooled Volkswagen tragic. For that reason, I'm always drawn to reference sources on the type.

This new reference source from the Ampersand Group is in the same format as their "Allied and Axis" series. The book covers some 136 pages featuring both colour and black and white photographs.

As the name would suggest, what you get is a visual record of both the Kubelwagen and Schwimmwagen. The photos have clearly been chosen with the modeller in mind and are all large and quite clear. Some of the black and white shots have been published before but I would suspect none quite as large as depicted in this publication. The photos are the real value of this publication as you can open any page, whether it be the black and white shots or the restored examples in the colour, and be provided with more than enough reference and inspiration to produce a model.

Another thing I like is the restored examples are not all factory fresh. Some, like the Panzer Grey example of the Kubelwagen on pages 48 to 69, have been driven around a bit and show what a used example looks like and where the dust and mud settles. Modellers should look at these and copy the weathering accordingly.

I have another confession to make, I'm a much larger fan of book based reference sources that web based reference sources. I'm old school. I like to touch and feel things. In my opinion, this book will provide you with everything you really need to know about either the Kubelwagen or the Schwimmwagen form a modelling reference perspective. References sources really don't come better than this.

Highly Recommended.

Thanks to Ampersand Publishing for the sample.

Luke Pitt

Winter War 1939–40
COMBAT
Finnish Soldier
VERSUS
Soviet Soldier
David Campbell

WINTER WAR 1939-40 COMBAT 21

FINNISH SOLDIER VERSUS SOVIET SOLDIER

BY DAVID CAMPBELL

OSPREY PUBLISHING
ISBN978-1-4728-1324-4

In 1939, Soviet troops totalling about one million men attacked Finland on several fronts. The heavily outnumbered Finns put up a skilful and effective defence that winter.

The Soviets expected a quick and easy victory. Instead, it proved to be a bitter conflict that destroyed the international reputation of the Red Army. One can only wonder if the appalling results of the Russian Army may have convinced Hitler a war with the Soviet Union was winnable.

This new title from Osprey centres itself on both the Finnish and Soviet soldiers. Covering 80 pages and including 50 black and white photos, 4 maps and 4 pages of uniform details the book is basically split into 3 sections. The first concentrates on the organisation, doctrine, training and tactics of the opposing armies. The second analyses three major battles within the conflict. The last gives an analysis and aftermath of the conflict.

The Osprey titles in this series are almost like school study note guides about the conflicts they cover. I like the approach. The information is given in small easily readable chunks that, is not overly burdened with technical details.

Recommended.

Thanks to Osprey for the sample www.ospreypublishing.co.uk

Luke Pitt

MALAYA AND SINGAPORE 1941–42
The fall of Britain's empire in the East
CAMPAIGN • 300
THE JAPANESE ASSAULT ACROSS THE STRAIT OF JOHORE
THE FINAL BATTLES

MALAYA AND SINGAPORE 1941-42
THE FALL OF BRITAIN'S EMPIRE IN THE EAST

BY MARK STILLE
OSPREY PUBLISHING
CAMPAIGN SERIES
ISBN 978-1-4728-1122-6

Malaya and Singapore were some of the most pivotal campaigns in the Pacific War. In a mere 70 days the British were outclassed and the once powerful Royal Navy was humbled by the sinking of the Repulse and the Prince of Wales. The myth of seeming invincibility of the Japanese was born. The campaign was marked by a weak Allied air force, poor defence planning and a raft of other issues. The final result was a disaster of unprecedented proportions for the British Empire. Indeed, this, was the seed that convinced many that the Empire remained in name only.

I have always been interested in these sweeping victories by the Japanese, so I jumped at the opportunity to review this book.

The book is presented in the usual Osprey format and covers some 95 pages, 67 black and white photos and 9 maps. To be honest with you, I'm not a great fan of maps but in this chase they are a crucial part of understanding the extent of the failure in both sea and land defence.

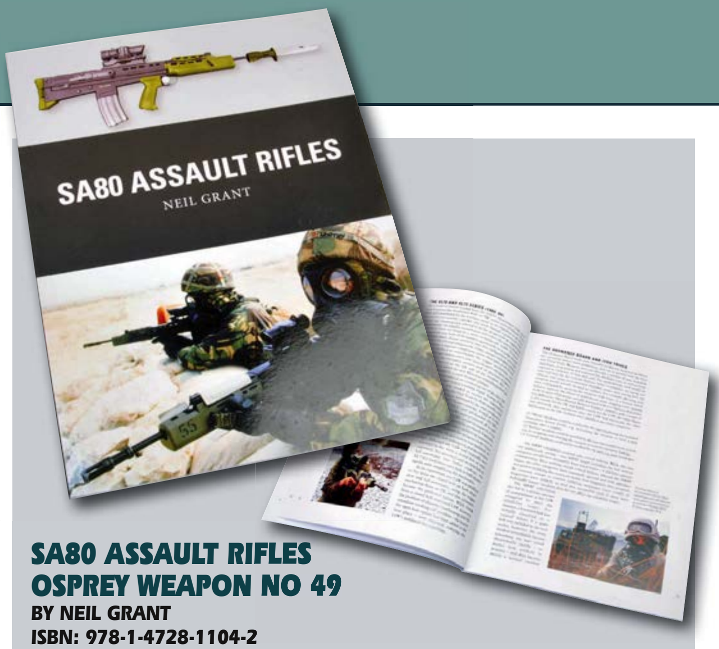
The book is broken down into eight chapters. The one I found most intriguing centred on the opposing Commanders. The author gives a well-rounded overview of them all and with the benefit of hindsight gives an accurate overview of the mistakes that were made.

I enjoyed reading this new Osprey title. The writing style is both easy to read but is also concise.

Recommended.

Thanks to Osprey for the sample www.ospreypublishing.co.uk

Luke Pitt



SA80 ASSAULT RIFLES
OSPREY WEAPON NO 49

BY NEIL GRANT
ISBN: 978-1-4728-1104-2
OSPREY WEAPON NO. 49

Osprey's newest series is entitled Weapon and the latest title in this growing range covers the controversial British SA80 family of assault rifles which entered service in the mid 80's and continue to be updated and serve. The SA80 family arm the British Military and have served around the globe and constantly surrounded by controversy, some deserved some not. The SA80 has its roots as far back as the 1950s when the British Army sought to replace the Lee Enfield Bolt action rifle that had served from the turn of the century in various models.

After trialling a very advanced Bullpup design the EM2 in a new cartridge the British were forced to abandon it to adopt the US led push to standardise on the powerful .308 (7.62x 51). They adopted the highly successful L1A1 SLR a British semi-automatic version of the Belgian FAL (Osprey Weapons 27) as the EM2 was deemed unsuitable for the Heavy and powerful 7.62 Nato round on Full Automatic. In the late 1970s NATO, at the urging of the US, re standardised to 5.56mm. This sparked a reinterest in the Bullpup design, which the British had been working on in a number of alternate calibres for the NATO ammunition trials in 1977. The result was the SA80 family of Rifles, Light Support Weapons and Carbines that were standardised as the L85 and L86 LSW in the mid 1980s.

The book details the progression from the EM2 and the need to provide a Section Support weapon with commonality including ammunition with the service rifle through to today's upgraded weapons. In between it covers the trials, design, use, controversies and the subsequent upgrades for service in Iraq GW2 and Afghanistan. It covers all the various models including the L98 CADET variants and the L22 Carbine which replaced the SMG in crew type roles. It gives user combat accounts and is a very thorough and enjoyable read.

The book is packed with fascinating photos and colour plates supporting a very enjoyable read. Weapon titles can sometimes be over technical and very dry and boring but this, like other titles in the range, has an appeal to the amateur, professional and enthusiast alike.

The book is follows the standard format for the range and includes the following chapters:

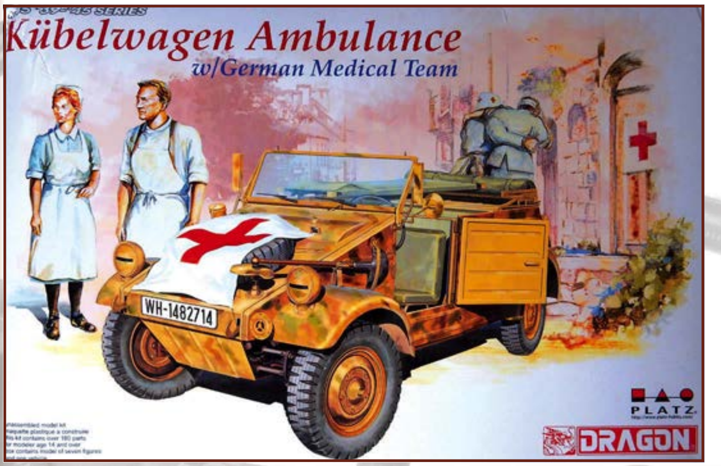
1. Introduction.
2. Development.
3. Use
4. Impact
5. Conclusion
6. Bibliography
7. Index

The title is broad in scope and high on detail and as such is easy to recommend whether you are a gun or enthusiast or military enthusiast. The SA80 family has been highly controversial but will be with us for some time yet and this title more than does it justice.

Highly recommended.

Available online from Osprey Publishing www.opsreypublishing.com

Al Bowie



Dragon has finally combined their Kubelwagen with its Medical Team crew to create a full 1:35 scale Kubelwagen Ambulance package.

JUNIOR AMBULANCE

This kit was last on general release back in 2007/08 under the Cyberhobby brand but Dragon has seen fit to make it available again. Thankfully they have not altered the contents so what we get here is exactly as it was those few years ago. You may not know this, but many years ago the Medical Team was available as a separate set and came with a sprue to convert the Dragon Kubelwagen kit. Fortunately, Dragon saw sense to then give you the Kubelwagen thus making this a complete set.

This may be a small box but there is plenty inside it. In total there are nine sprues of grey styrene, one transparent sprue, and a small set of etched brass. Three sprues are given over to the figures and the stretcher and there are just less than 200 plastic parts in the box.

THE KUBELWAGEN

The vehicle itself traces its lineage back to Tasca/Bego and is beautifully rendered. There is a detailed engine & engine compartment and whilst the suspension is not moveable, the multi-part assembly provides for some fantastic detail. The tyre tread pattern on the wheels is good but the hub detail has that 'Wow!' factor.

For the floor we get parts representing the wooden slats that have a very fine wood grain pattern on them. Separate wheel arches are added to the body panels which then attach to the floor pan, and when I built this kit years ago this was the only area where care had to be taken. For the driver's controls, Dragon gives us some very fine one-piece pedals and a superb dash with the speed indicators represented in teeny detail – a decal would have been nice for the speedometer but we can't have everything. Although the doors come as one piece they can be separated and shown open, but the only criticism is that the door handles are molded solid. The etched fret provides replacements for the outer handles (too 'two dimensional' for my taste) but not the inners which is odd.

To make this vehicle into the ambulance the instructions tell you to do away with the passenger's seat and install a stretcher, plus add in the rack & bars for the stretcher holder behind the driver's seat. The parts for this come on the additional Sprue 'H'. As an option we get the tilt either in a fully stowed or deployed position. If you have it up, clear plastic parts are provided for the windows. The windscreen is also clear and is finished off with plastic motor housings – note that the wipers are moulded integrally but you get etched replacement provided despite them not being called out in the instructions. When I built mine I left the moulded on ones there as life is too short to try to remove them and stuff up the clear plastic!

Turning to the figures, we get one surgeon and a nurse, a figure to fill the stretcher plus a medic holding up an injured soldier wearing a head bandage. There is also a driver and passenger included with the Kubelwagen sprues. The Medics set includes a lovely stretcher (look at the stitching on the underside – wow!) that can be fitter to the vehicle complete with prone casualty if you so wish. Moulding on the figures is pin-sharp however, apart from the Kubelwagen crew, the rest are marred by an infuriating trait of Dragon's : the thick parts (upper bodies/torsos) have annoying flow lines on them that look like cracks on the plastic surface. I have found that paint rarely covers these up so I just live with the imperfection.

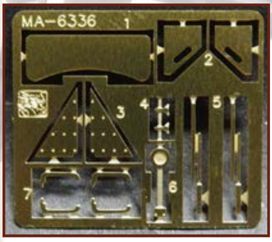
The decal sheet supplied is by Cartograf and provides generic number plate details, various Red Crosses for the vehicle and Medics plus other bits & bats.

CONCLUSION

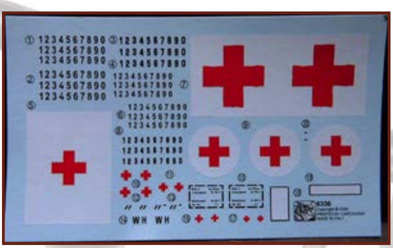
It is good to see this kit re-released and unchanged from what has gone before. The basic Kubelwagen kit is arguably the best on the market. Yes, Tamiya's goes together easier with less parts but the detail on this one is far better. Fit of parts is not too testing but due to the etched bits and some small, fiddly, parts I would not recommend it as a beginner's kit.

The figures provide a lovely touch and, apart from the moulding flaws, are exceptionally well detailed. The poses are original and leave this a perfect diorama in a box. Highlights for me – detail on the speedometer, the hub detail and the bandages on the injured soldiers. Highly recommended. I give it a hearty 9/10. ■

Dragon kits are distributed in the UK by The Hobby Company Limited www.hobbyco.net



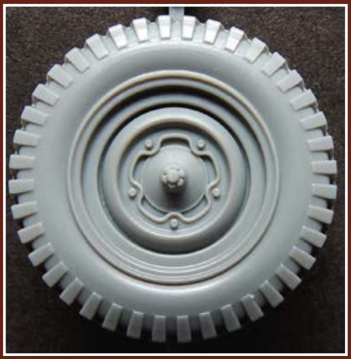
The photo-etched fret.



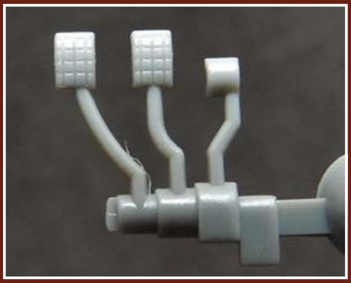
Vehicle markings and Red Cross decals.

My head hurts!

Facial features of the nurse.

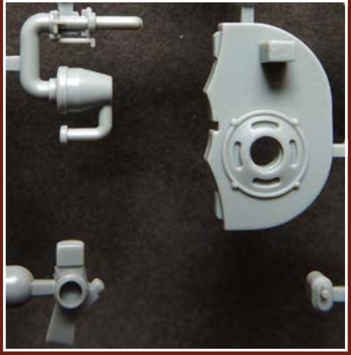


Front wheel detail.

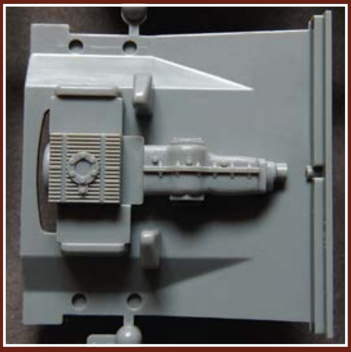


These look good enough to go in my car.

Even the KPH is moulded onto the speedo!

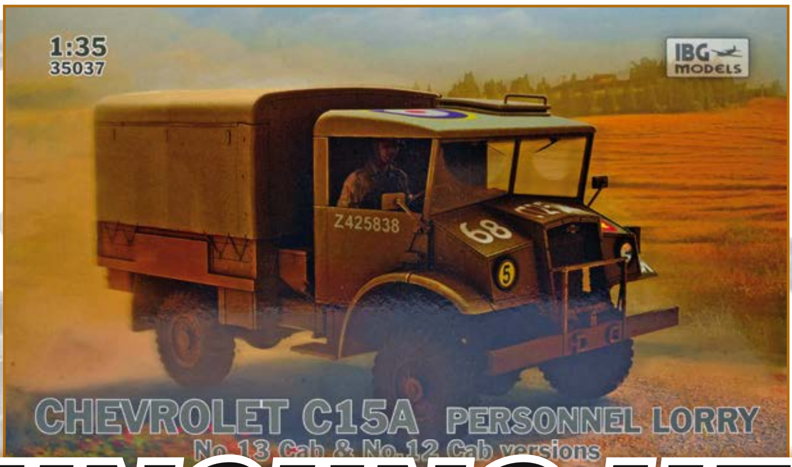


Some of the engine parts.



Lower engine & transmission detail.

Stitched up.


1:35
35037
IBG MODELS
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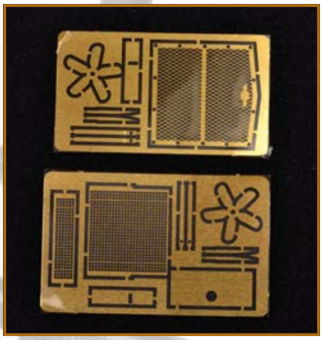
68
5
CHEVROLET C15A PERSONNEL LORRY
No 13 Cab & No 12 Cab versions

UNSUNG HERO

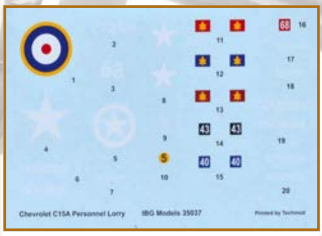
Al Bowie celebrates the new IBG 1:35 scale Chevrolet C15A Personnel Lorry No. 12 & 13 Cab Versions

One of the unsung heroes of WWII was the Canadian Military Pattern (CMP) truck made to a common British format by Ford and Chevrolet in a number of models including the subject of this kit, the 15 CWT 4 x 4. These vehicles were the backbone of the Commonwealth Armies and served in a variety of roles in all theatres with construction in Canada, India, Egypt, New Zealand and Australia. Over 500,000 were with produced starting in 1939.

Allied soft skins have been poorly represented in 1:35 scale plastic over the years but a range of Chevrolet 15 CWT were produced by Max Peerless then subsequently re-released by Italeri, Bilek, Tomy and Airfix to name a few. This new kit is of the 15 CWT 4x4 Chevrolet pattern but gives the modeller the option of the No. 12 or No. 13 Cab patterns which will be a factor in selection for many modellers and opens up a number of subject possibilities. At first glance it is an improvement over the nearly 50-year-old Max Peerless kit and offers the personnel/GS body with moulded canopy.



The kit's photo-etched parts.



Kit decals.

Construction is pretty much like a real truck with a body and tray on a chassis and the kit can be built in these subsections making painting a lot easier.

The kit is extensive and well detailed with PE provided for radiator grills, engine fans etc. I found the instructions pretty straight forward with A4 sized sheets in logical steps although my set had a number of pages upside down but as this was a sample kit that should hopefully not reappear on production examples.

A full engine is included although I was disappointed that there is no way other than kit surgery to display this engine. The cabin and tray interiors are very well done but like the real vehicle there isn't much to see. No decals or detailed moulding are provided for the driver's instruments which was a bit disappointing although difficult to see in the completed truck. 46 steps cover the construction and other than the cab, an option for one-piece tilt or an open frame is also thoughtfully provided. This tilt is moulded with the tray sidewalls and the tie downs moulded on. I had my reservations but it is well done and the texture of the canvas restrained. One small disappointment is the lack of a rear flap for the full tilt.

The chassis is very detailed and constructed like the original so care has to be taken in alignment but no great problems were found. The tyres are mould in halves with the rims and have the Good Year logos in subdued relief on the sidewalls.

I cannot vouch for accuracy of the No 13 cab due to a lack of reliable plans, but I have seen comments that it may be a little off in shape and the windscreen height but it matches photos of restored vehicles well to my eye. Decals are included for three vehicles, all being Canadian:

1. No. 12 Cab HQ 2 Canadian Infantry Div Engineers Normandy July 1944
2. No. 13 Cab Carleton & York Regiment 1st Canadian Infantry Division Sicily July 1943
3. No. 13 Cab 5 Provost Coy 5 Canadian Armoured Division Italy August 1944

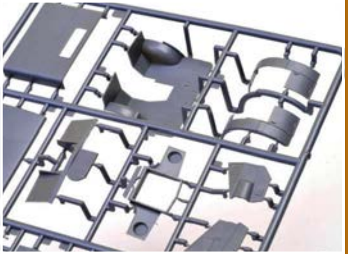
All marking options are complete and are plain Olive Drab with only option 1 having a Black disruptive scheme on the rear and tilt.

This kit fills a big hole in the available WWII Allied subjects and is not complex with plastic that is a very forgiving and a soft light grey. Detail is sharp and the end result will be a fine looking kit of this important Allied truck. I would have liked a few more options in the markings given the range of service these vehicles had but I am sure aftermarket ones will appear.

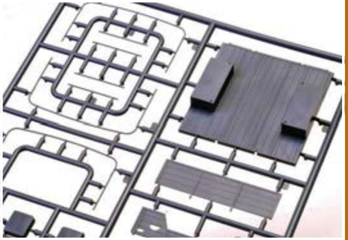
I highly recommend this kit to modellers of Allied WWII subjects or given the post war use and conversions anyone with an interest in trucks

Highly Recommended. ■

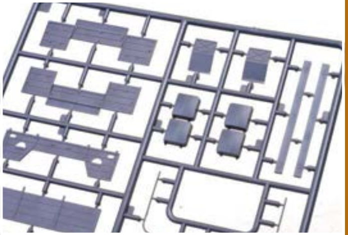
Thanks to IBG for the review sample www.ibgmodels.com



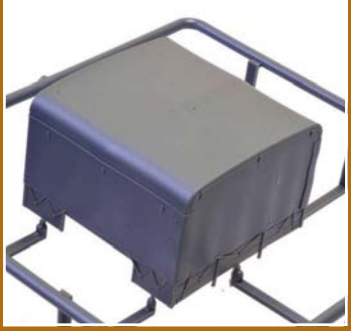
One of the body options.



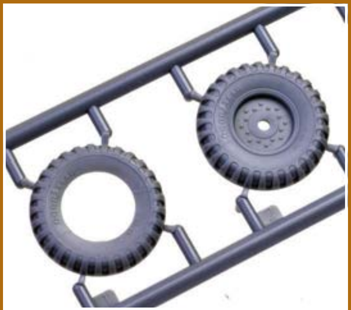
Rear tray and hoops.



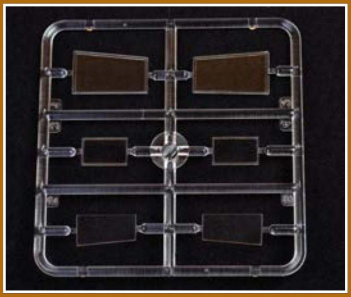
Tail and side gates.



The one-piece moulded tilt.



Nicely moulded wheels and tyres.



Clear parts.

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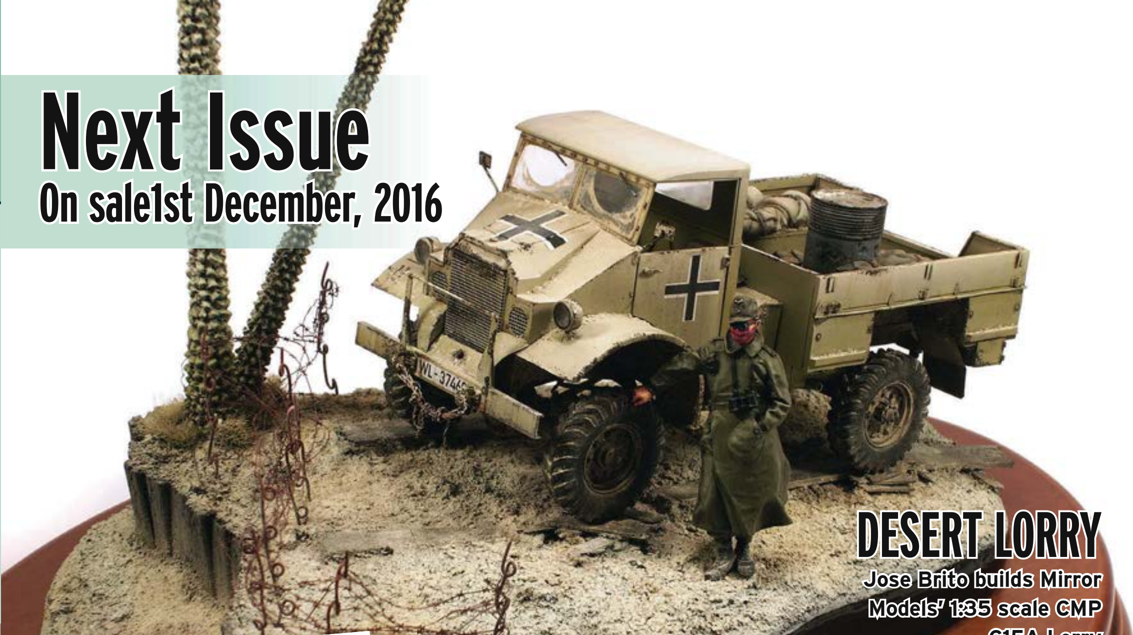
Next Issue

On sale1st December, 2016



DESERT LORRY

Jose Brito builds Mirror Models' 1:35 scale CMP C15A Lorry

YORKSHIRE WAR WEEKEND 2016

Graham Tetley offers some full-sized reference from this impressive show

HEAVY HITTER Part Two

Brett Green paints and adds crew figures to Tamiya 1:35 U.S. Self-Propelled 155mm Gun M40

FOR YOUR SAFETY

Don't forget, when using solvents such as glues, paints, thinners and cleaning agents, always ventilate your work area thoroughly and wear a face mask.

When using power tools, side cutters or any tool that can suddenly break or create high-speed airborne particles, wear approved eye protectors with hard, clear lenses. Please always model in safety!

WOLVERINE!

Part Two of Tamiya's 1:48 scale M10 Tank Destroyer by Kamil Feliks Sztarbala

...and much more!

Due to many influencing factors, we cannot guarantee the appearance of the above projects, but we'll try our best!

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NEW 1:48 TAMIYA ELEFANT

Tamiya surprises us with an announcement of a brand new 1:48 scale Elefant Heavy Tank Destroyer. **The Editor** examines test shot sprues of this forthcoming kit.

The Elefant was essentially a reconditioned and improved Ferdinand.

During 1943, the Ferdinand tank destroyer on the Eastern Front suffered from mechanical problems that were compounded by poor visibility and the lack of any close defence weapons. The large smooth steel surfaces were also a magnet – quite literally – to infantry-placed explosive charges. The surviving Ferdinands were therefore withdrawn and rebuilt with more reliable engines, a modified Panzer III cupola with all-round episcope vision, a bow mounted machine gun, and renamed "Elefant". Zimmerit coating was also applied to combat magnetic charges.

Tamiya released their 1:35 scale Elefant in mid-2012. This was a great kit – well-detailed, simple parts breakdown, perfect fit and link-and-length tracks.

Fast forward to 2016, and Tamiya has scaled down this big Tank Destroyer to produce an all-new 1:48 scale kit. I was fortunate to receive a set of test shot sprues in advance of the kit's release.

Tamiya's 1:48 scale Elefant test shot comprises 192 parts in grey coloured plastic, ten polythene caps, four cylindrical metal ingots, a length of string and decals for one marking scheme.

Unlike its 1:35 scale big brother, the hull and superstructure sides are moulded as one full side each with separate panels for the hull floor plus superstructure and hull front and rear panels. The track guards also double as sponson covers.

The internal casemate permits the gun to elevate and traverse thanks to a combination of polythene caps and snap-fit plastic parts.

Typical of Tamiya's 1:48 scale military kits, four cylindrical metal ingots are supplied for the lower hull to add "scale weight" to the model.

Both the driver's and Commander's hatches may be posed open.

Tracks are made up from a combination of individual links and five different lengths. The lengths are moulded with curves in place – either up or down depending on their final position on the track run.

Outer and inner surfaces are well detailed.

The plastic parts are rounded out with a Commander figure. He is well moulded and the facial detail is particularly nice. A single marking option is supplied on the small decal sheet.

Tow cables are supplied as lengths of string.

The instructions are well laid out over 17 steps with clear illustrations supplemented by text directions where required. The section dealing with the tracks is especially well done.

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102
1/48 GERMAN HEAVY TANK DESTROYER ELEFANT
(32589) 11403526
TAMIYA, INC.
0916SA ©2016 TAMIYA

CONCLUSION

Once again, Tamiya has delivered a well-detailed and easy to build model of an iconic vehicle.

All you will need to add is zimmerit.

Tamiya's Elefant is another great kit in their 1:48 scale series. Sit back, relax and enjoy the build!

Highly Recommended. ■

Thanks to Tamiya Japan for the sample www.tamiya.com
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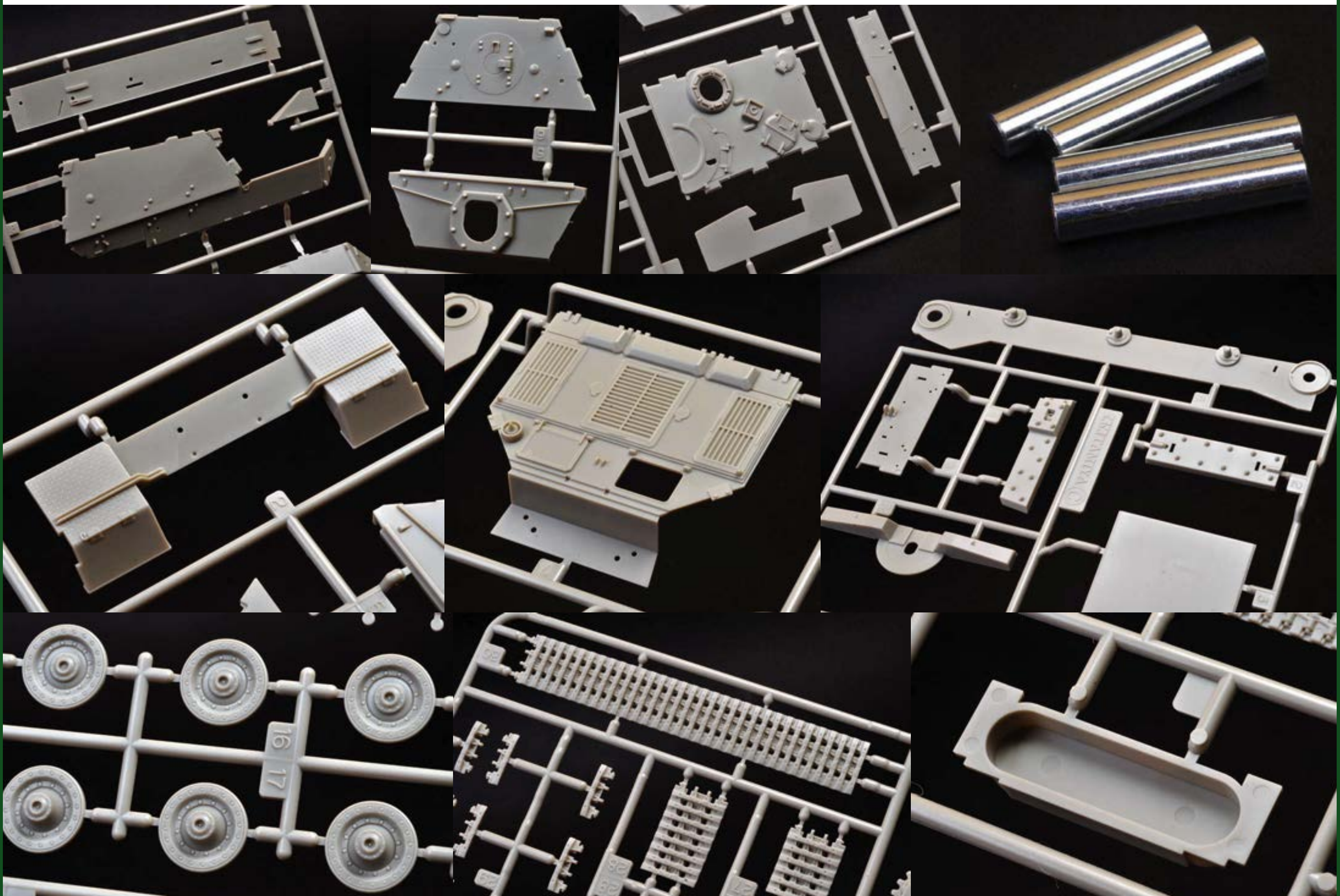

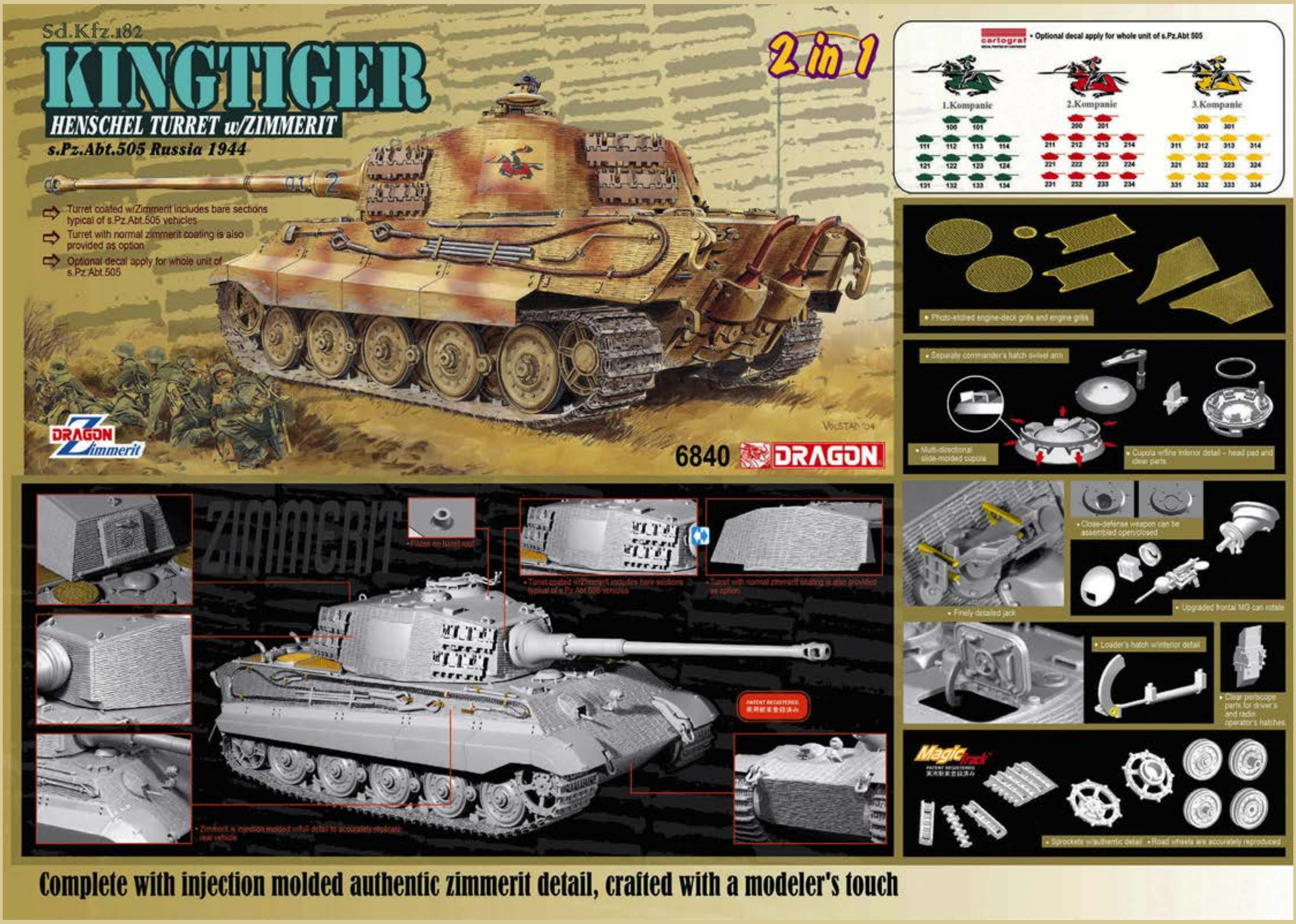
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HENSCHEL TURRET w/ZIMMERIT
s.Pz.Abt.505 Russia 1944
2 in 1
Turret coated w/Zimmerit includes bare sections typical of s.Pz.Abt.505 vehicles
Turret with normal zimmerit coating is also provided as option
Optional decal apply for whole unit of s.Pz.Abt.505
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• Optional decal apply for whole unit of s.Pz.Abt 505
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131 132 133 134
2.Kompanie
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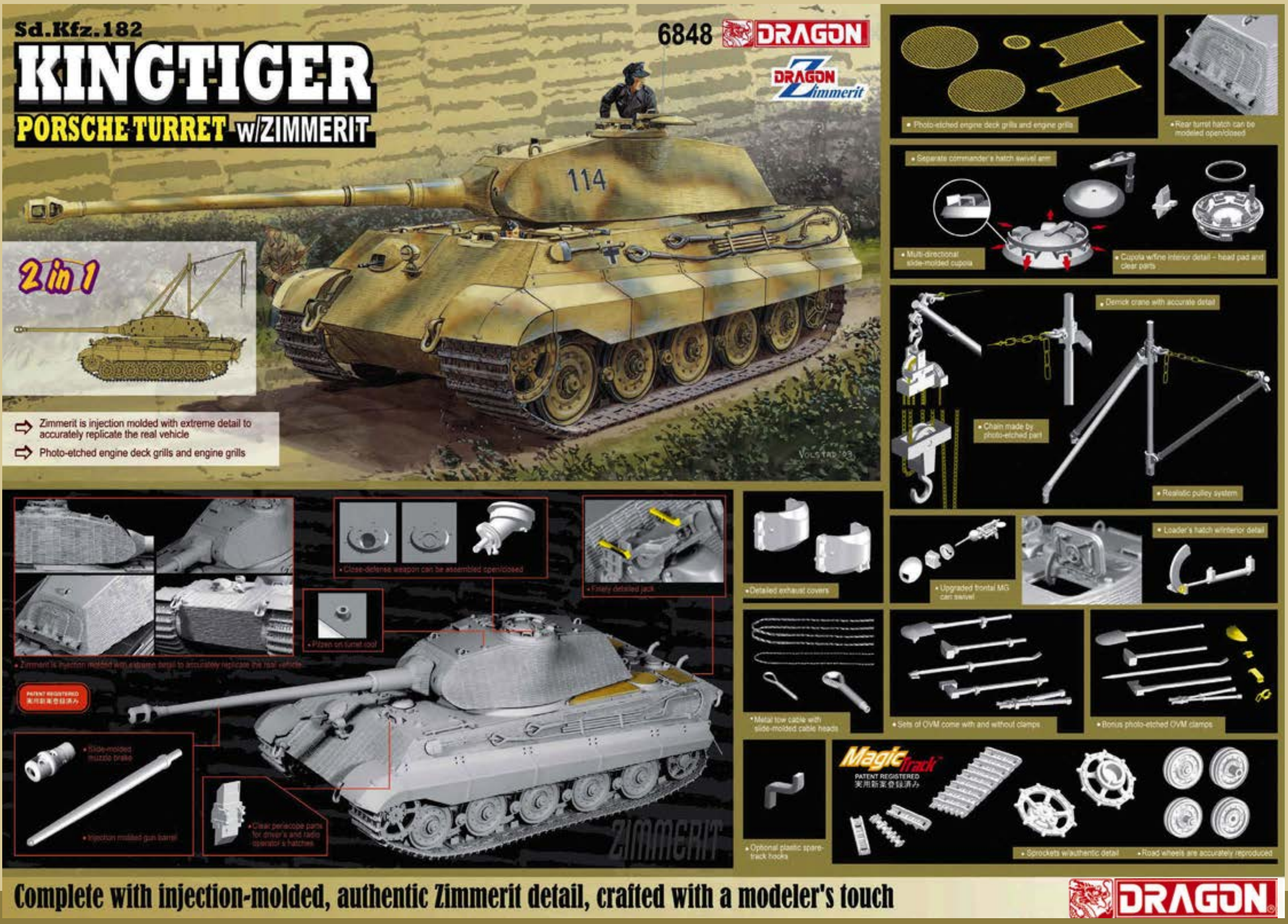
211 212 213 214
221 222 223 224
231 232 233 234
3.Kompanie
300 301
311 312 313 314
321 322 323 324
331 332 333 334
DRAGON Zimmerit
VOLSTAD '04
6840 DRAGON
• Photo-etched engine-deck grills and engine grills
• Separate commander's hatch swivel arm
• Multi-directional slide-molded cupola
• Cupola w/fine interior detail – head pad and clear parts
ZIMMERIT
• Pilzen on turret roof
• Turret coated w/Zimmerit includes bare sections typical of s.Pz.Abt.505 vehicles
• Turret with normal zimmerit coating is also provided as option
PATENT REGISTERED 実用新案登録済み
• Zimmerit is injection molded w/full detail to accurately replicate real vehicle
• Finely detailed jack
• Close-defense weapon can be assembled open/closed
• Upgraded frontal MG can rotate
• Loader's hatch w/interior detail
• Clear periscope parts for driver's and radio operator's hatches
Magic track
PATENT REGISTERED 実用新案登録済み
• Sprockets w/authentic detail
• Road wheels are accurately reproduced
Complete with injection molded authentic zimmerit detail, crafted with a modeler's touch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KINGTIGER
PORSCHE TURRET w/ZIMMERIT
6848 DRAGON
DRAGON Zimmerit
114
2 in 1
Zimmerit is injection molded with extreme detail to accurately replicate the real vehicle
Photo-etched engine deck grills and engine grills
VOLSTAD '03
• Photo-etched engine deck grills and engine grills
• Rear turret hatch can be modeled open/closed
• Separate commander's hatch swivel arm
• Multi-directional slide-molded cupola
• Cupola w/fine interior detail – head pad and clear parts
• Derrick crane with accurate detail
• Chain made by photo-etched part
• Realistic pulley system
• Zimmerit is injection molded with extreme detail to accurately replicate the real vehicle
• Close-defense weapon can be assembled open/closed
• Finely detailed jack
• Pilzen on turret roof
PATENT REGISTERED 実用新案登録済み
• Slide-molded muzzle brake
• Injection molded gun barrel
• Clear periscope parts for driver's and radio operator's hatches
ZIMMERIT
• Detailed exhaust covers
• Upgraded frontal MG can swivel
• Loader's hatch w/interior detail
• Metal tow cable with slide-molded cable heads
• Sets of OVM come with and without clamps
• Bonus photo-etched OVM clamps
• Optional plastic spare-track hooks
Magic track
PATENT REGISTERED 実用新案登録済み
• Sprockets w/authentic detail
• Road wheels are accurately reproduced
Complete with injection-molded, authentic Zimmerit detail, crafted with a modeler's touch
DRAGON

D6840 & D6848

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U.S. SELF-PROPELLED 155mm GUN M40

Take Aim!

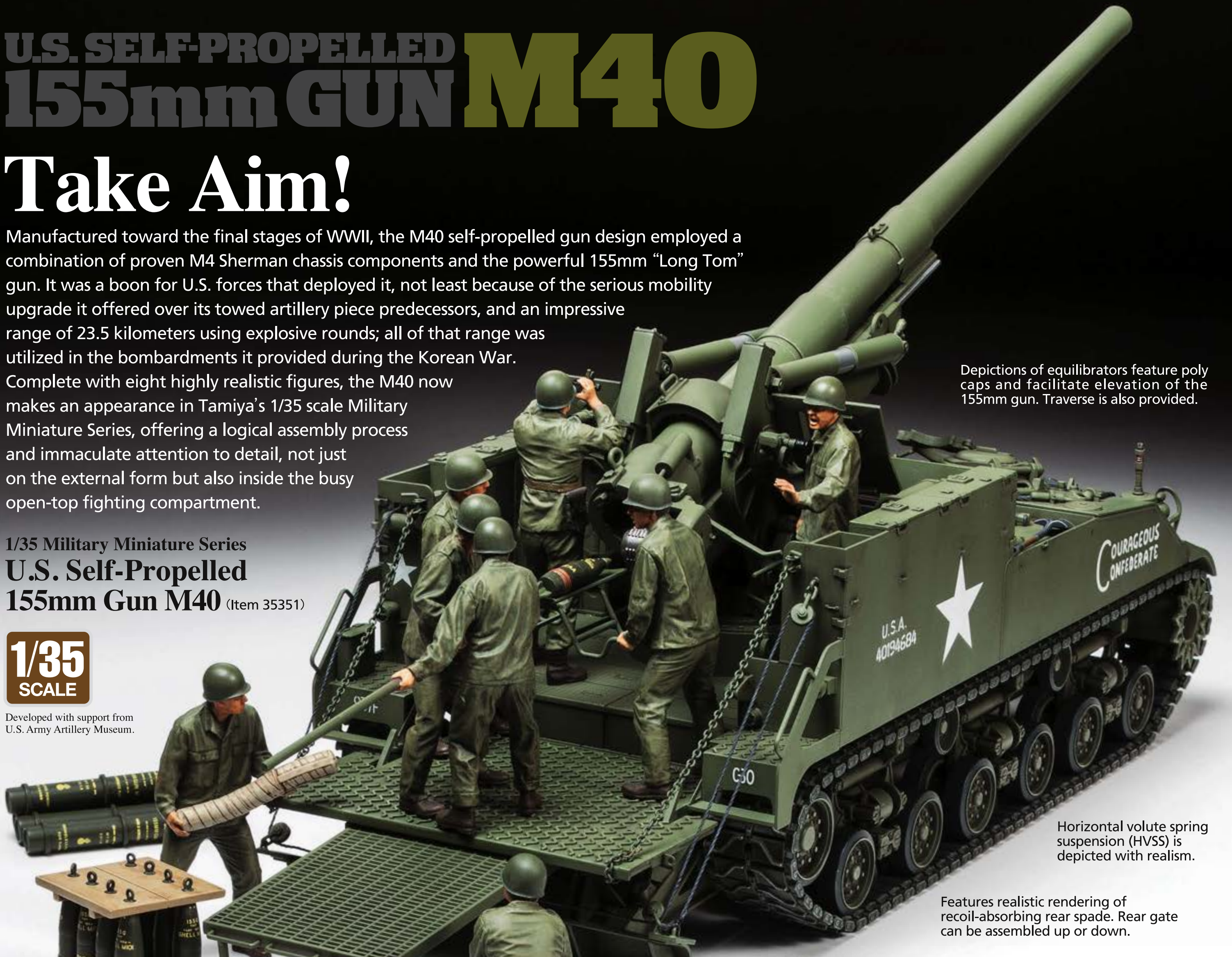
Manufactured toward the final stages of WWII, the M40 self-propelled gun design employed a combination of proven M4 Sherman chassis components and the powerful 155mm "Long Tom" gun. It was a boon for U.S. forces that deployed it, not least because of the serious mobility upgrade it offered over its towed artillery piece predecessors, and an impressive range of 23.5 kilometers using explosive rounds; all of that range was utilized in the bombardments it provided during the Korean War. Complete with eight highly realistic figures, the M40 now makes an appearance in Tamiya's 1/35 scale Military Miniature Series, offering a logical assembly process and immaculate attention to detail, not just on the external form but also inside the busy open-top fighting compartment.

1/35 Military Miniature Series

U.S. Self-Propelled 155mm Gun M40 (Item 35351)

1/35 SCALE

Developed with support from
U.S. Army Artillery Museum.



Depictions of equilibrators feature poly caps and facilitate elevation of the 155mm gun. Traverse is also provided.

Horizontal volute spring suspension (HVSS) is depicted with realism.

Features realistic rendering of recoil-absorbing rear spade. Rear gate can be assembled up or down.

A multitude of accessories includes depictions of projectiles, rack and cases.

Length: 305mm, Width: 91mm

ATLAS ANKIES

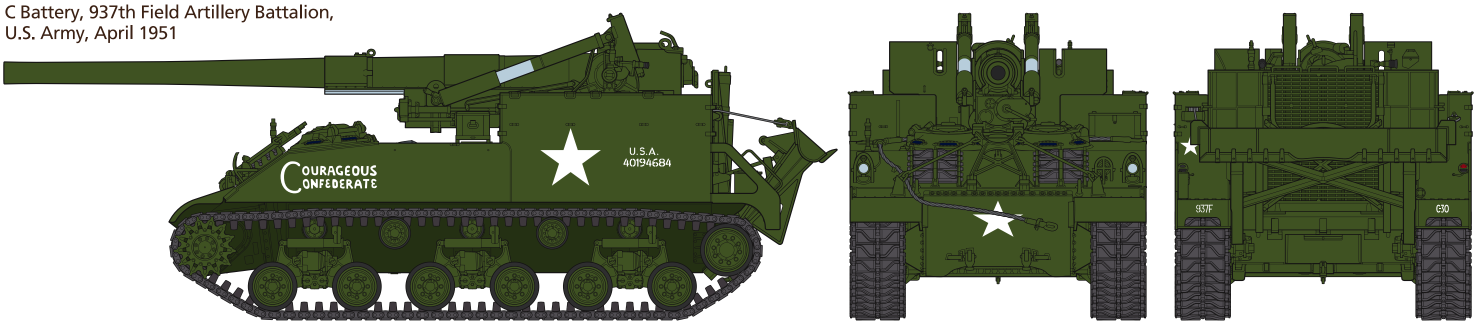
A Clear parts recreate lights and sights on twin commander and radio operator cupolas, while the gun travel lock is a moving part. The differential cover has an authentic cast surface texture.

B Realistic interior features detailed gun breech, ammo racks and much more to marvel at!

A
COURAGEOUS CONFEDERATE

In-depth study of the real thing has ensured a highly accurate depiction of the M40 form. ★T80 tracks are faithfully rendered by belt-type parts. ★Photo-etched engine grille parts give a crisp finish. ★Comes with no less than 8 figures, plus 2 Korean War marking options.

C Battery, 937th Field Artillery Battalion,
U.S. Army, April 1951



Also On Sale!

1/35 Scale U.S. M40 Metal Gun Barrel Set (Item 12670)

This set includes not only an impressive machined aluminum gun barrel with rifling detail at the tip, it also features 10 brass depictions of projectiles with decals to recreate their markings.

TAMIYA, INC. 3-7 ONDAWARA, SURUGA-KU, SHIZUOKA 422-8610 JAPAN ©2016 TAMIYA ★Images show assembled and painted kit. ★Product may vary from images shown.